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Wangchuk ends fast after govt. agrees to resume talks

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Climate activist Sonam Wangchuk and others from Ladakh ended their hunger strike after 16 days on Monday following an invitation from the Union Home Ministry to resume dialogue.

The Ministry has agreed to convene a meeting of the high-powered committee led by Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on December 3.

Cherring Dorjay Lakruk, chief of the Ladakh Buddhist Association and co-convener of the Leh Apex Body, who is part of the committee, said, "We are not going back from the four-point agenda. The talks will be held only around the four points."

The LAB, a civil society organisation along with the Kargil Democratic Alliance, has been protesting for the past four years to demand Statehood, inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution (tribal status for Ladakh), employment opportunities for local people and a Rajya Sabha seat and a Lok Sabha seat each for the Leh and Kargil regions. The previous rounds of talks did not yield any result.

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India, China reach deal on easing LAC tensions

Both arrive at an agreement on patrolling arrangements, and resolution of all remaining friction points, says Foreign Secretary; gone back to where the situation was in 2020, says Jaishankar

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

India and China have reached an agreement on the "patrolling arrangements" and the resolution of the military standoff at the Line of Actual Control (LAC), the Union government announced on Monday, in a breakthrough that officials told *The Hindu* include the remaining friction points of Demchok and Depsang.

The announcement by Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri came during a press briefing on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Russia for the BRICS summit on Tuesday. Chinese President Xi Jinping is scheduled to attend the event.

"Over the last several weeks, Indian and Chinese diplomatic and military negotiators have been in close contact with each other in a variety of forums, and as a result of these discussions, agreement has been arrived at on patrolling arrangements along the LAC in the India-China border areas, leading to disengagement and a resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020," Mr. Misri said, adding that the two sides would now take the "next steps" on this.

A few hours later, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed the importance of the agreement on patrolling, which had come to a stop in 2020, after which the two sides accepted "buffer zones" in some areas of dispute that denied the militaries their normal patrolling routes.

While the External Affairs Ministry did not give further details of the agreement, and whether the "buffer zones" would continue to exist for patrolling purposes, Mr. Misri said the two sides had "reached an agreement on the issues that were being discussed". "With that we have gone back to where the situation was in 2020. With that we can say the disengagement process with China has been completed," Mr. Jaishankar said in an interview to the television channel NDTV.

In the past, the government has said that disengagement would only constitute the beginning and that normalcy at the LAC would only follow after "deinduction and demobilisation" of troops that China had amassed at the LAC, leading to counter-deployments by India.

The timing of the announcement, just a day before the BRICS summit, indicates that a meeting between Mr. Modi and Mr. Xi, which has been speculated about, is more likely to take place.

Although the two leaders met as many as 18 times between 2014 and 2020, they have spoken publicly only twice since the clashes in the Galwan Valley.

Significantly, the Chinese government did not announce or comment on the border agreement on Monday. Asked about a possible meeting between the leaders, Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokesperson Lin Jian said they would inform "if anything comes up".

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Run-up to resolution

The Indian and Chinese militaries have been locked in the stand-off along the Line of Actual Control since May 2020. India announced that it has reached agreements on patrolling and other issues

June-July 2024: Minister Jaishankar meets Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Almaty, Vientiane

July-August: Working mechanism of diplomats, military holds meetings in Delhi, Beijing

September: National Security Adviser Ajit Doval meets Wang Yi in St. Petersburg

October: Military commanders, diplomats meet at LAC points

Major headway: Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri made the announcement on the breakthrough during a press briefing on PM Narendra Modi's visit to Russia on Tuesday. PTI

'Laws for minority institutions do not breach secularism'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday made a point that laws which regulate institutions run by religious or linguistic minorities, for that very reason alone, cannot be accused of breaching secularism.

The oral observation by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, heading a three-judge Bench, was hearing a challenge to a decision of the Allahabad High Court to strike down the Uttar Pradesh Board of Madrasa Education Act, 2004.

The 2004 Act regulated madrasas in the State. The High Court concluded that the law violated the principles of secularism. It had ordered the transfer of their students, especially those in recognised madrasas, to regular schools. Petitioners claimed in the top court that the verdict had affected the lives of nearly 17 lakh students spread across 16,000 madrasas in Uttar Pradesh.

"A law per se regulating an institution belonging to a particular community does not *ipso facto* [by the fact itself] offend the principle of secularism," the Chief Justice observed.

The CJI referred to another Act in the same context, The Hindu Religious Endowments and Charitable Institutions Act, which provided for the "proper administration of religious institutions... and is there in all States from Maharashtra to Tamil Nadu".

The Chief Justice said a State had a right to legislate to improve the excellence of a government-aided minority-run institution.

"It is within a State's vital interest. These are young children who come to madrasas. They need a broad-based education... They should learn the essentials of subjects required to lead a proper life, so they become worthy citizens," the CJI observed.

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> It is within a State's vital interest. These are young children who come to madrasas. They need a broad-based education...
> **D.Y. CHANDRACHUD**
> Chief Justice of India

NEARBY

Bottleneck on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway

BENGALURU
Driving from Mysuru to Bengaluru on the highway takes less than two hours until you hit traffic after descending from the Kumbalgodu flyover. Time that was saved on the highway is lost on the outskirts of Bengaluru. » PAGE 5

12 lakh ineligible BPL cards to be weeded out

BENGALURU
Minister for Food and Civil Supplies K.H. Muniyappa on Monday said close to 12 lakh ineligible BPL ration cards would be weeded out in the State as a large number of families have not availed foodgrain under the public distribution system. » PAGE 9

'Colleges must follow BBA model curriculum'

BENGALURU
AICTE has asked colleges to adopt its newly developed model curriculum for BBA programme started for technical education institutions from the academic year of 2024-25. » PAGE 3

JMM, RJD struggle to reach a deal on seats

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Hard bargaining continued between the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in Ranchi on the third consecutive day over seat sharing for the Jharkhand Assembly election.

Despite three meetings between RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav and Chief Minister Hemant Soren, both parties did not reach any consensus on Monday.

On Saturday, Mr. Soren, JMM chief, announced that his party and the Congress would fight 70 seats, leaving the remaining 11 to be shared between the RJD and the Left parties. Hours later, the RJD expressed dissatisfaction over the "unilateral" seat-sharing arrangement. The RJD said that it would go solo if it was not offered a reasonable number of seats.

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BJP leader Yogeshwar resigns as MLC

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI/BENGALURU

The bypolls to the Channapatna Assembly seat got complicated for the National Democratic Alliance on Monday with cine actor-turned-BJP leader and ticket aspirant C.P. Yogeshwar resigning as BJP MLC after it turned out that he would not get the party ticket.

Though Mr. Yogeshwar, a former Minister, told presspersons after submitting his resignation that he was planning to contest as an Independent, speculation is rife that he is in touch with the Congress too. His decision to quit as MLC and his reputation of being a party hopper has added to speculations.

C.P. Yogeshwar (right) handing over his resignation to Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti in Hubballi on Monday. KIRAN BAKALE

Keeping everyone guessing, Mr. Yogeshwar, who has represented Channapatna in the Assembly multiple times, said he would take two days to decide on his future course of action. While the BJP has left the seat to its alliance partner JD(S), Mr. Yogeshwar refused to contest on JD(S) ticket, saying even now he was willing to contest but only on the BJP ticket.

Mr. Yogeshwar flew down to Hubballi to meet Legislative Council Chairman Basavaraj Horatti at his home office to submit the resignation.

"I have not been assured of the party [BJP] ticket. Then, I was given the offer of fighting on a JD (S) ticket. But I rejected it as I want to contest on BJP ticket given my seniority in the party. The BJP district president told me that the party wanted to field Nikhil Kumaraswamy as the JD(S) candidate from Channapatna. I wished them luck and came to Hubballi," he said.

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Bengaluru Urban gets 50% more rains

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After a dry September, Bengaluru has been experiencing moderate to heavy rainfall in October.

According to data from the India Meteorological Department, Bengaluru Urban received 156.6 mm of rainfall from October 1 to October 21, compared to the normal 104.6 mm, marking a 50% increase. Bengaluru Rural received 136.4 mm during the same period, against the normal 109.9 mm, showing a 24% rise.

Bengaluru city received 247 mm of rainfall from October 1, significantly higher than the normal 120 mm. HAL Airport recorded 228 mm of rainfall, exceeding the normal by 99 mm.

The city has been experiencing consistent rainfall since the onset of the northeast monsoon on October 15. During the 24 hours ending 8.30 a.m. on Monday, Bengaluru city got 61.9 mm of rainfall, while HAL Airport received 41.8 mm.

DETAILS ON
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NIA team begins probe into attack in Ganderbal; militants remain untraced

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Militants who killed seven civilians and injured five on Sunday at the campsite of a private construction company in Ganderbal district of Jammu and Kashmir are yet to be traced. Security agencies have launched a manhunt for the terrorists, as a team of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Monday began a probe into the brutal killings.

Lieutenant-Governor Manoj Sinha blamed Pakistan for the attacks saying the neighbouring country was frustrated by the successful and peaceful elections in Jammu and Kashmir, and people expressing their faith in democracy.

He said security forces and the police had been given instructions and full freedom to track down and eliminate the perpetrators. "I want to assure the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and the country, that we will soon track down these elements and punish them severely," he said.

A statement attributed to The Resistance Front (TRT), an offshoot of the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) outfit, claimed responsibility for the attack.

Tragic incident: Relatives mourning the death of Dr. Shanawaz Dar in Budgam on Monday. IMRAN NISSAR

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Prajwal's acts *prima facie* depict wanton lust, have a chilling effect on society: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that the alleged acts of former MP Prajwal Revanna "*prima facie* depict wanton lust, depravity of senses, and have a chilling effect down the spine of society," the High Court of Karnataka on Monday declined to grant him regular bail and anticipatory bail in three separate cases – two cases of rape and one case of sexual assault – registered against him by three women.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while rejecting three separate petitions filed by Mr. Prajwal. The court said he could not be released on bail as the eight parameters, which the apex court stipulated for considering grant of bail in criminal cases, would run against him.

Prajwal Revanna FILE PHOTO

"The apex court lays 8 postulates for considering an application for grant of bail, be it regular or anticipatory. They being whether there is *prima facie* reason to believe that the accused has committed the offence; nature and gravity of the accusation; severity of punishment; likelihood of the offence being repeated; witnesses being threatened or influenced; and justice being thwarted. In the considered view of the court, all the postulates would run against the petitioner for denial of bail," the court observed.

Stating that "there are reasons to believe albeit, *prima facie*, that the petitioner has committed the offence," the court observed, "Danger of the accused [Mr. Prajwal] absconding or fleeing on bail is writ large, as the petitioner did not co-operate with investigation, sitting in Germany for more than 35 days after the registration of the crime. Therefore, the risk of him fleeing the country looms large."

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A dream come true for a loyal servant of New Zealand cricket

It was indeed a seminal moment for Bates to lay her hands on an ICC silverware after being so close all these years along with the past, present and future players was the icing on the cake and the stuff of legends

Lavanya L
DUBAI

AP

A usually happy-go-lucky Sophie Devine welled up when asked about her teammate, former captain and friend, Suzie Bates. Tears were already brimming at the surface given that New Zealand made its first World Cup semifinal since 2016, beating Pakistan in its final T20 World Cup group game in Dubai a week ago.

"Sometimes, I forget how lucky I've been to play with Suze. You talk to any cricketer who has had the joy of playing alongside her, against her, and they'll say that she's one of the greatest humans ever. And for us to be here in this tournament - it might be our last, who knows - to have a little moment there and connect.

"It is really special because we have been through a lot together. We've grown up together. She's probably grown up a bit more than me (smirks)," an emotional Devine said.

In the span of a week, Bates and Devine brushed aside West Indies in the penultimate clash before blowing away South Africa in the final to lift its maiden T20 World Cup crown and its first ICC trophy since the ODI World title in 2000.

Bates has seen the tides change around the White Ferns in world cricket since 2006. For her, memories of their first T20 World Cup final are still crystal clear.

"We hadn't played a lot of T20 cricket. The ODI World Cup had just ended and we had lost to England in the final and then made the T20 World Cup final too at Lord's. It was before the men's game," Bates told *The Hindu*.

'I remember batting at Lord's. That was pretty special for the first time. Having made it to the final, I was really gutted that we came second. Looking back, making two back-to-back finals in a short span of time was pretty cool. But, every edition we haven't won is a huge disappointment because every team is there to win. We haven't been able to do that since I've been in the side."

The White Ferns folded for just 85 in that game, but hindsight has softened that sting a little, 14 years on.

"When I was younger, especially those three World Cup finals that I played in early on, I wasn't able to contribute how I would have liked with the bat. I was disappointed probably for a month afterwards and just really flat about how I went. I blamed myself a bit for the team's performance which, looking back, was a bit silly."

Bates, hailed among the greatest cricketers her nation has produced, has been formally playing the game in higher tiers of competition since the age of 15. For a long time, she juggled basketball and cricket, even representing the Kiwis at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Cricket became her sole priority when captaincy landed in her lap, but basketball was never discarded. She took on a coaching role with the Otago Nuggets in 2021 when shoulder surgery kept her away from cricket for much of the season.

She championed power hitting in the early eras of the T20 game in the women's vertical and her performances made her one of the first formally contracted players in New Zealand. As the most prolific scorer for the White Ferns, she has also cemented her place in the history books.

Evolving duties

In the recently concluded T20 World Cup, the 37-year-old was tasked with easing 20-year-old Georgia Plimmer onto the rocky road of opening the batting. That alongside helping Devine band the team together, as it looked to get back on track after an abysmal 10-match losing streak coming into this World Cup.

"I'm probably a bit more of a realist of where the games are and how much England, Australia and India have grown. Although we're not getting the results we used to against those nations as consistently, the game has just changed so much and the depth that they've developed makes them really competitive," Bates added.

"I try not to look at the outcome and the results and I know that's what everyone else looks at. For me, there's got to be individual progress and clarity on how we're growing as a team or where people are contributing. For my own sanity, I try to avoid looking at the wins and losses table and focus on whether I am contributing."

Keeping up

New Zealand is one of the old powers of the sport, being the only nation besides Australia, England and West Indies (T20 title in 2016) to win a World Cup (the 2000 ODI crown). But it has had to watch other nations like India and South Africa edge ahead due to concerted efforts in building a talent pool and raising standards of play.

With tournaments like the Hallyburton Johnstone Shield (50-over) and the Super Smash (20-over), New Zealand's work to professionalise its cricketing spaces has been praiseworthy. However, there is another side to this story.

Outgoing captain Devine said earlier this year that 'there isn't much depth coming through. New Zealand is a small country and it doesn't have millions of people playing cricket.'

"I don't think it's catching up. I think we've progressed as naturally as New Zealand would have wanted to with their resources and domestic structure," Bates said.

"It's just that, when England, Australia and India decided to invest in the women's game, they progressed at faster rates with the players. They have the systems and a lot of money that has helped. It's not like we've gone backwards. It's just that the others have gone ahead at a faster rate.

"At some point, I have a feeling that the resources the others put in will plateau allowing us to draw level. It's just that the bigger nations with more resources have jumped out in front."

Never say never

As an individual player, Bates barely has a free window on her calendar. Right after the World Cup, she heads to Australia for a Women's Big Bash League stint with Hobart Hurricanes.

This will be her fourth WBBL franchise after Adelaide Strikers, Perth Scorchers and the Sydney Sixers. Bates has travelled the world participating in leagues from WBBL and The Hundred (Oval Invincibles). She has been a part of the Women's T20 Challenge, the exhibition tournament that preceded the Women's Premier League in India. She has also featured in the *FairBreak* Invitational, an ICC-sanctioned T20 tournament featuring a larger pool of Associate Nation players.

At her age and with her all-round skill, now whittled down primarily to batting, critics do postulate whether teams should begin looking past her to a potentially younger talent pool. It has prompted Bates to look within and figure out how she wanted to play her cricket. Over time, she has made peace with the outcomes of being a risk-taking opener.

"When I first started T20 cricket, scores were between 100 and 120. Sometimes, you could get a 50 off 50 balls and put your team in a losing position. Everyone started chasing strike rates and that did make things difficult at times in different conditions and with varying paces of bowling. Slow outfields and grounds also come into play. So for me, adaptability, over anything else, and grinding out a win have been the top skills."

The direction of the wind in the player market is not lost on Bates who has approached franchise opportunities with pragmatism.

"About a decade ago, there weren't too many opportunities. Slowly, something new popped up. From the *Kia* Super League to the WBBL, it came to me and I was like, I want to be a part of that!

"At one stage, I needed to play as much as possible for it to make financial sense. Now I am in a situation where I know I can't play forever, so every opportunity coming my way is an opportunity I might not get in the future.

"I've never felt like I've been in a position to want to say no. Having played this game for about 20 years now, playing international cricket is impossible to maintain. I'll play till my arms fall off and then I'll be done."

Stepping down from the captaincy of the White Ferns got a big load off Bates' shoulders and allowed her career room for exploration.

"Giving up captaincy rejuvenated my own career. As soon as you don't feel like going to training or don't feel like you want to get better or you don't find the joy of running out onto the field with the girls, that's when you know. And the hard thing for me is I can't imagine losing that; I love training."

Carrying the weight of the ecosystem back home has also worn out Devine, and Bates says she hopes to convince her friend and colleague to stick around for longer. "We've had those chats, Sophie and I, about what her plans are because that's a big hole both of us will leave, but I also stay out of that. We keep talking about our own plans and what we're going to do after and when that might be. I want Sophie to hang on and so I'm sort of convincing her to play."

Universe aligning

It's been an interesting week for Bates and her White Ferns. From fighting for a spot in the knockouts bracket, to utter dominance in the semifinal and final, things fell in place at the right time for a side that's found itself on the unfavourable side of fortune far too many times.

A few weeks ago, when Bates sat down for a chat and was asked what her wish list looked like at 37, she promptly said: "Literally a World Cup win."

Bates got her wish, in a team that technically has three generations of players. There's Devine, Bates and Lea Tahuhu - who are now the oldest players to win a Women's T20 World Cup. There's Amelia Kerr, a generational cricketer who dreamt of batting alongside Devine and Bates and wrote school essays on winning the World Cup with her idols. And then there is Eden Carson, Fran Jones and her generation which idolises Kerr.

The past, present and future of New Zealand cricket came together to get the job done was the icing on the cake.

"This means everything to us. We've played team sport for so long and when you play team sport, you want to be a world champion. Everyone contributing and the team effort it was in the end makes you so satisfied as an athlete for it all to come together and this moment is something I'll never forget. We have fought our way back to the top."

THE GIST

- A few weeks ago when Bates was asked what her wish list was, she promptly said, "Literally a World Cup win"
- Hailed among the greatest cricketers her nation has produced, she has been playing the game in the top tier since the age of 15
- The direction of the wind in the player market is not lost on Bates who has approached franchise opportunities with pragmatism

Rains continue to batter city; over 100 houses flooded

As many as 20 flights delayed; many diverted to Chennai; vehicular movement in several parts of the city disrupted; motorists struggle to navigate inundated roads

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Workers make their way through an inundated road in Bengaluru on Monday. AFP

HSR Layout at Agara in Bengaluru was flooded on Monday following heavy overnight rain.

The north-east monsoon continued to batter Bengaluru, which has been receiving moderate to heavy rainfall over the past four days, causing severe inconvenience to motorists and residents in flood-affected pockets in the city.

The Monday rains forced many employees, especially those working in IT corridors, to switch back to work from home, even as the district administration declared a holiday for schools in the morning.

Traffic hit

The rains, which lashed the city in the wee hours of Monday, hit the morning traffic. After a dry spell in the afternoon, thundershowers resumed late in the evening, causing traffic snarls and flooding in some parts.

Motorists had a tough time navigating flooded and potholed roads. The situation on Outer Ring Road was quite bad. Traffic police said slow-moving traffic was reported at Challaghatta road towards Kempapura. To ensure the safety of the commuters, police closed Wind Tunnel Road for a few hours after it was inundated.

Slow-moving traffic was reported at Srinivagilu main road, 80 feet road. Owing to a tree fall at 32 E Cross, Jayanagar General Hospital, towards Aravinda Junction, the road was closed on both sides, and commuters were instructed to use alternative routes.

Flights delayed

The late evening showers resulted in the delay of several incoming flights at Kempegowda International Airport. The inbound flights landed on time till 9 p.m. However, between 9 p.m. and 11 p.m., 20 flights had a delayed landing. Indigo flights from Delhi, Hyderabad, and Chandigarh were diverted to Chennai. An Air India flight from Delhi was also diverted to Chennai.

"The number of delays will increase. Flights are taking five to six rounds before landing," sources at the airport said.

Extent of rain

According to IMD data, Bengaluru city received 5.5 mm rainfall, HAL Airport received 0.3 mm rainfall, KIA received nil rainfall for nine hours ending 5.30 pm on Monday.

About over 100 homes were flooded in the morning hours at Austin Town in Shantinagar Assembly constituency.

According to the residents, every rainy season, roads and houses get flooded because of faulty construction of storm-water drains. BBMP hasn't acted on multiple requests to fix the issue, they said.

The clubhouse area of Rainbow Drive Layout was also inundated due to the heavy morning showers. The residents blamed the BBMP and the builder of the 26-year-old gated community.

New committee

Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar mooted forming a committee to chart a permanent solution for flooding in the city.

Talking to reporters, he said, "Many people have built houses in the low-lying areas and hence they get flooded during heavy rains. We are thinking of forming a new committee to find a permanent solution."

Incessant rains hit waste collection as roads turn unmotorable

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The incessant rains battering Bengaluru since the last few days have hit door-to-door waste collection and collection of waste from blackspots.

According to sources, compactors arrived late from the Mittaganahalli landfill due to the poor condition of the road inside the dumping yard.

Waste not collected

Residents in some areas alleged that waste had not been collected for over four days.

A waste collector in East Bengaluru said this was because the chain of collection was hit by the poor access to the landfill.

A wet waste supervisor in J.P. Nagar said, that on Monday too the auto tippers arrived two hours late due to rain and residents who went to work could not hand over the wet waste.

A BBMP official talking to *The Hindu* said the compactors that went to dump waste at the landfill arrived late as the road inside the landfill is in bad condition, resulting in traffic pile up. "This is usual when the landfill area receives heavy rainfall. The roads are slushy and trucks move very slowly to the dumping site," he said.

Blackspots

On the other hand, due to rain, waste dumped at the blackspots were scattered everywhere.

At Silk Board, a stormwater drain was clogged due to waste and the police swung into action to clear the same.

BJP leaders visit rain-affected areas, demand relief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP leaders inspecting rain-hit area near Silk Board.

Accusing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of being in deep slumber by ignoring the problems of people affected by rain havoc, the Opposition BJP leaders on Monday visited a few areas hit by heavy rains in Bengaluru and demanded a relief amount of ₹5,000 crore for the State and ₹1,000 crore for Bengaluru city.

Speaking to media persons, Leader of the Opposition R. Ashok demanded that the Chief Minister should immediately convene a meeting of the senior officials concerned to review the situation.

He alleged that the government had not held any meeting related to floods and rain havoc in the last one month. He alleged that failure to take up rain preparations like desilting of rajakaluves (Stormwater drains) by the Congress government was the main reason for flooding in Bengaluru.

He demanded that the Congress government should provide details on the total extent of encroachments cleared on rajakaluves and their desilting take up in the last one and half years.

Several BJP leaders including former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwath Narayan were part of the BJP team that visited a few areas near Silk Board junction in Bengaluru.

Despite govt. declaring holiday, many private schools conduct classes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite the State government's early morning declaration of a holiday due to incessant rains, many private schools affiliated with the Central Board like Indian Certificate of Secondary Education (ICSE), and Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) conducted classes on Monday.

Children who did not go to school following the government's holiday announcement were marked as absent.

"I was shocked to get a message from the school around 11.40 a.m. saying that my son was absent. I had decided not to send my son to school following the holiday announcement by the government. But, the message from the school mentioned it was regular classes for them," said a parent, who is sending her son to a private CBSE school in Banashankari 2nd stage.

Another parent whose children are studying at a CBSE school in Bengaluru South, said that as there was no communication from the school, they went to inquire and the authorities said there was no holiday.

Meanwhile, following the directions from the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Bengaluru Urban, the Deputy Directors of Public Instructions (DDPI) of Bengaluru South and North have decided to issue notices to erring schools.

"We issued the order late because the rain alert came late. It was the responsibility of all the schools to obey the orders as it was in the interest of students. As there were complaints against private schools for not following the order, I have asked the DDPIs to issue notices to such schools," said G. Jagadeesh, Deputy Commissioner of Bengaluru Urban District.

As per the details available, in Bengaluru South educational district, there were more than 15 complaints by parents and the DDPI said he has directed the Block Education Officers (BEOs) concerned to send the list.

"So far, we have issued notices to more than 15 schools based on the complaints by parents and the public. This list may go up and we will issue notices to all such schools," said Ningarajappa. K.B., DDPI South.

However, the delayed announcement by the District Administration caused inconvenience to thousands of parents. Some children leave home around 7 a.m. and as there was no clue, parents sent them to schools and got a call within a few minutes to pick them back.

A few schools have directed parents to watch news reports in the morning for the next few days for rain alerts and any holiday declarations by the government.

Pilgrims rescued after stream starts overflowing

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI / SHIVAMOGGA

Officers rescued around 30 Warkaris who were stranded in a math in Baradur village, Haveri district, on Monday.

The group, who were on a pilgrimage to Pandharpur from Totadayallapur, had stopped to rest for the night at the math located outside the village.

Overnight, a nearby stream began to overflow, trapping them in the area. One of the Warkaris contacted friends to inform them of the situation, and later, the police and the Fire and Emergency Services were notified.

Rescue personnel arrived and successfully evacuated the group using a lifeboat.

The Warkaris stated they would resume their pilgrimage on Tuesday.

Chikkamagaluru Deputy Commissioner Meena Nagaraj issued an advisory urging the public and tourists to avoid low-lying areas due to heavy rainfall across the district.

In a statement released on Monday, the DC noted that the Meteorological Department had issued a yellow alert for Chikkamagaluru for the next three days, with many waterbodies overflowing.

She advised the public and tourists to refrain from visiting low-lying areas until the rains subside.

The officer also directed homestay and resort owners not to take visitors for trekking in forested areas, since heavy rains could trigger landslides. She advised tourists to postpone their trips to the district by at least a week.

Third Campus Farmers' Market

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College, Autonomous, on Friday organised its third Campus Farmers' Market with the focus on tomatoes under the Kristu Jayanti Sarva Vikas initiative.

K. Venkataraman, Chief Excecutive Officer of Farmer Products Organisation, Kolar, the chief guest, said, "This week, the farmers have produced 1.5 ton of a variety of eight different types of vegetables to be sold at the market today. "

KARNATAKA STATE ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Central Offices, Stores and Purchase Dept, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560027

NOTICE INVITING TENDER NO. 04 Dated: 22.10.2024

Tenders (Pre-qualification and or commercial offers) through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** are invited for supply of the following Goods/Services/ Equipments:

Tender Nos as per E-portal	Nomenclature of Items/ Services/ Equipment	Tender Value crorers (Approx)	Last date for submission of documents
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0136	Procurement of Auto Electrical Items	4.80	19/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0137	Procurement of Tie Rod Drag Link and Repair Kits	2.17	19/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0138	Procurement of Phenol Bonded Densified Wooden Floor	1.70	19/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0139	Procurement of Cotton Waste	0.60	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0140	Procurement of Wheel Bolts, Nuts and Axel Studs	0.56	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0141	Procurement of Tyre and Tube Patches	0.50	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0142	Procurement of Plywood Sheets	0.35	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0143	Procurement of M S Welding Electrodes and CO2 MIG Coil	0.62	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0144	Procurement of FIP Spares required for Denso Pump	0.40	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0145	Procurement of Dashboard Instruments	4.50	19/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0146	Procurement of Piston Assembly & Ring Sets	4.00	19/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0147	Procurement of Alcohol Breath Analyzer	0.25	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0148	Supply, Installation & Commissioning of TIG Welding Machine on turnkey basis	0.05	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0149	Procurement of Synthetic Rubber Adhesive	0.35	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0150	Procurement of Retro Reflective Tape	1.15	19/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0151	Procurement of GHT U Bolt and GHT U Bolt with Nylock Nuts	1.50	19/11/2024
	SHORT TERM TENDER		
KSRTC/2024-25/SE1300	Engaging an agency for providing Technical Assistant on contract Basis to various Divisions of KSRTC	11.76	23/10/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0135	Procurement of Automotive Cables & Wires	0.71	04/11/2024
KSRTC/2024-25/IND0152	Procurement of Door Asemblies (Passanger Door, Driver Door, luggage Dicky Door, Radiator Door etc) for VOLVO Vehicles	0.48	28/11/2024

Further any addendum / corrigendum in respect of change in calendar of events, specification, scope of work other tender terms and conditions etc, will be uploaded/ published through e-portal only.

NOTE:-Interested suppliers need to register in the e-procurement portal. For further information log into **http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** In case of further assistance, contact e-procurement cell (Phone. No. 080-2230960, 080–22234115). Interested suppliers may also contact e-procurement cell for training on bid submission. Mail to Support@eprochelpdesk.com for further information if required. In case of bidders need assistance from KSRTC, can communicate at cosp@ksrtc.org, (contact: 7760990225, 7760990224)

Sd/-
CONTROLLER OF STORES & PURCHASES
(Tender Inviting Authority)

DIPR/CP/JA/2657/2024-25

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No: CAO/CN/BNC/EPC/ 27/2024, Dated: 10.10.2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Item of work	Approx. Value
Engineering, Procurement and Construction (EPC) Agreement for Construction of New Broad Gauge Line between Chainage 51/500 & Chainage 84/000 Including Railway Electrification, Civil Works, Signal & Telecommunication Works and Electrical General Services between Madhugiri (Excl.) & Madakasira (Excl.) in Tumakuru - Rayadurga new Line Project. **(Tender Ref. No.: TK-RDG-EPC-04)**	**Rs. 611,53,24,050/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 08.01.2025**

For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Engineer/Construction/ Works/Bengaluru

PUB/501/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2024-25

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public is informed that my clients **M Vishnu Thirth Singh s/o K. Mohan Singh & Megha Sikarwar w/o M Vishnu Thirth Singh,** intends to purchase property described in the schedule herein from **Manjunath Reddy s/o late Venkatanarayana Reddy** (hereinafter Developer/seller). The Developer/seller represents and warrant that he is the sole and absolute owner of the schedule property and that he has not conveyed or entered into any Agreement to Sell/MOU or any sort of agreement with any other person/s, for sale/transfer of the schedule property and that the Developer/seller further represents and warrants that he has not encumbered, the schedule property in any manner and apart from him no other person/s, includes legal heirs, Firm or Company having any sort of right, title or claim over the schedule property.

Any person/s having any objection/s or claim/s shall with documentary evidence lodge their objection/s, claim/s, within Seven(07) days from the date of this notice with the undersigned, failing which my clients shall proceed with the above mentioned transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of **Site no.20,** measuring East to West 30 ft & North to South 41ft totally measuring **1230sqft,** Khata No.161/4/20 carved out of Sy no.161/4 land measuring 15 guntas in "**MANJU SRIGANDHA RESIDENCY LAYOUT**", approved by Mantapa Grama Panchayat situated at **Hullahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Tq, Bengaluru Dist,** bounded on

East by : Private Property, West by : Plot No.21, North by : 20ft Road, South by : Private Property.

Prashanth B.K, Advocate,
No.17, Sir M V 2nd Cross, Kalkere Main Road, Ramamurthynagar
Bengaluru-560016 M : 09900056401
Bengaluru Date : 22-10-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify the general public that my client **Smt.Kalavathi**, R/at. No.07, Diya residency, Muneshwara block, Mannarayana palya, RT Nagar, Bangalore - 560032, She has lost the Sale deed and Gift deed, **registered as document Sale deed No - HBB-1- 04732-2015-16, recorded in HBBD174 and registered as document Gift deed No - HBB-1-02291-2020-21, recorded in HBBD713**, and also has **lodged Police Complaint in Bangalore City Police, vide lost report No.1151917/2024 dated: 19-07-2024.** In case anybody find said Documents, shall inform the above mentioned Address / below mentioned **Contact Number : 8310411232.**

K.C.Shantha Kumar
Advocate, No.17, 2rd Floor, Mayura Nivas, 4th Main Road, 3rd Cross, Chamarajpete, Bangalore - 18, Mob: 9448454565

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my client is intending to Purchase the property more fully described in the Schedule hereunder from its **owners M/s. P. C. Realty, a Partnership firm, duly represented by its Partners: Sri. P.C.Mohan and Smt. Shyla Mohan and M/s. Paridhi Buildcon Private Limited, a Company duly registered under the Companies Act 1956** and **represented by its Directors: Sri. P.C.Mohan and Smt. Shyla Mohan,** who has represented that it has a clear and marketable title to the same. Any person/s, financial institutions, statutory authorities or any other persons/s representing any private or public companies or any partnership firm or any society who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the Schedule Property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned, **within Seven (7) days** from the date of issue of this notice with documentary evidence failing which, it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and any objection/s or claims made thereafter will not be binding on my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof subject to compliance with other statutory and legal formalities.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential converted vacant site bearing No.192, having Property No.886/192, as per Village Panchayath records with PID No.150200202000321494, measuring East to West 15.24 Mtrs., and North to South 9.14 Mtrs., totally measuring about 139.29 Sq.Mtrs., situated in the Layout called 'AMANSARA' formed out of Sy. Nos.75, 76/3, 76/4, 77P1, 78/5 and 109/1 of Avalahalli Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Presently Yelahanka Taluk, earlier Bangalore North Taluk, and falling under the revenue jurisdiction of Singanayakanhalli Village Panchayath and bounded on:

East by : Site bearing Nos.158, 159 & 160 ; **West by** : 9.14 Mtrs ; **North by** : Site bearing No.193 ; **South by** : Site bearing No.191.

B. R. Ravi Kumar
Advocates
No.537, 10th 'B' Cross, Yelahanka New Town, **Bangalore - 560 064**

Black holes in Webb data allay threat to cosmology's standard model

Using data from the Webb telescope, studies found the universe should have had massive galaxies sooner than believed. Their conclusion undermined the standard model of cosmology, which attempts to explain the universe's origins. But a new study may have saved the model

Shreejaya Karantha

A small portion of the field observed by the James Webb Space Telescope filled with galaxies. The light from some of them has travelled for over 13 billion years to reach the telescope. JWST/NASA

Since NASA launched the James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) almost three years ago, astronomers have been actively searching for clues about how galaxies grew in the early universe. This universe was a dark place: there is no light from this period to tell us how the first stars and galaxies formed, yet uncovering these processes could help answer key questions like the role of dark matter in the early universe.

So when astronomers recently pored through JWST, they were surprised to find monstrous structures when the universe was only a few hundred million years old, instead of infant galaxies.

The universe began with a Big Bang about 13.8 billion years ago as a hot, dense mixture of gases and subatomic particles. Over time, the universe expanded and cooled, allowing the particles to separate from the mixture and become independent clumps of matter. The gradual and continuous cooling of the universe eventually created larger structures such as stars, galaxies, and galaxy clusters.

According to the standard model of cosmology, which attempts to explain the universe's origins and evolution, the first stars formed around 100-200 million years after the Big Bang and the first galaxies within the first billion years.

But JWST was revealing massive, fully-developed galaxies, that too in greater numbers than expected, only around 400-650 million years after the Big Bang. This mismatch became a source of intrigue among researchers, who had to figure out what was wrong with their standard model.

Now, a study published on August 26 in the *Astrophysical Journal* by an international team led by Katherine Chworowsky and Steven Finkelstein at the University of Texas at Austin offers a promising explanation.

Deep into the universe

Distant galaxies are faint, and detecting them requires advanced telescopes, Prerana Biswas, a postdoctoral researcher at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, explained. (She wasn't involved in the new study.)

This means, first, a telescope with a large primary mirror. The Hubble Space Telescope has a 2.4-m-wide primary mirror, while JWST's mirror is 6.5 m wide. Second, the telescope will have to be very sensitive, which relates to its ability to record data at different wavelengths. The Hubble operates in the optical, ultraviolet, and some infrared wavelengths, while JWST is specifically designed for infrared observations with a focus on studying the early universe. This is because visible and ultraviolet light from distant galaxies shifts to the infrared wavelengths as the universe expands.

In the new study, researchers analysed data from the JWST's Cosmic Evolution Early Release Science (CEERS) Survey, which Finkelstein leads. They focused on galaxies that existed when the universe was 650–1,500 million years old.

According to the team, one possible explanation for a larger number of massive galaxies in the early universe is that these galaxies manufactured stars more efficiently than the galaxies of today.

Biman Nath, a professor of astronomy and astrophysics at the Raman Research Institute, Bengaluru, said the higher efficiency of star formation "wouldn't affect the large-scale structure" of the universe "because the bulk of these large-scale structures is produced by dark matter, so what happens to a tiny fraction of normal matter (whether or not they produce stars at a faster rate) wouldn't affect it."

He added that the specifics of whether the modified efficiency contradicts the current understanding of galaxy formation need to be worked out. Biswas agreed, saying that if this value is found to have been higher in the early universe, existing models of galaxy growth and evolution may need to be reworked.

A secret ingredient

The researchers also examined the black holes at the centres of these ancient galaxies. These objects are also called "little red dots" because of what the light from their direction looks like. These black holes rapidly consume the galaxies' gas, causing the latter to emit heat and light.

"The fact that massive black holes contribute to the total light emitted by their host galaxies has been known for some time, and there has been research and work done to disentangle light coming from black holes from the light coming from stars to accurately measure" the masses of stars in galaxies, Chworowsky said.

"However, before JWST, we had not seen galaxies that looked specifically like little red dots, therefore it was not known that they often hosted black holes until they had been independently studied," she added.

> However, before JWST, we had not seen galaxies that looked specifically like little red dots, therefore it was not known that they often hosted black holes until they had been independently studied

In other words, the star mass of galaxies may have been overstated in previous studies thanks to the additional light emitted by their black holes. When the researchers in the new study removed these little red dots from their data for analysis, they found that the galaxies weren't as massive as previously estimated, thus sparing the standard model of cosmology from revision.

The bottom line

The researchers wrote in their paper that the standard model could explain more efficient star formation in the early universe in the form of the extreme physical conditions and abundant gas. Catastrophic events like supernovae and stellar winds were also less effective at disrupting star formation.

"The standard model of cosmology remains the most successful framework for describing our universe," Biswas said. "There are only a handful of studies that contradict this model. It is not surprising that JWST observations align with its predictions. It would be far more surprising if these observations challenged this model."

Previous JWST observations of massive, well-developed galaxies in the early universe had questioned the standard model, including the universe's age, the timeline for the formation of the first galaxies, and galaxy formation theories. For example, a recent study used JWST data to say spiral galaxies could have emerged in the universe within 1.5 billion years, much earlier than previously expected. As evidence, the researchers pointed to an exceptional star formation rate and larger galaxy sizes – but these conclusions could be overturned now. The authors of this study declined to comment.

Nath, who wasn't involved with the new study, added that the problem of observations not matching the standard model's predictions "become acute when the JWST observations of even earlier galaxies are considered, going back to when the universe was around 400 million years old."

Chworowsky said the team is working on including more data from JWST in addition to CEERS. "This will give us the ability both to push this analysis to higher redshifts and higher masses, as those galaxies are rarer and we're more likely to be able to find them in larger sets of data."

Expanding the data set will help researchers get a better sense of the current results and develop a more comprehensive understanding of the formation of massive galaxies in the early universe.

"I am happy to see that astronomers are working towards these problems," Nath said. "Maybe it is possible, after all, to find some explanation within the current models."

(Shreejaya Karantha is a freelance science writer and a content writer and research specialist at The Secrets of The Universe.*shreejayakaranth@gmail.com)*

Colombian women perform during the opening ceremony of COP16, a United Nations' biodiversity conference, in Cali, Colombia, on Sunday. AP

World lags on 2030 nature goals as COP16 talks begin

Reuters

The world in 2022 reached its most ambitious deal ever to halt the destruction of nature by decade's end.

Two years later, countries are already behind on meeting their goals.

As nearly 200 nations meet on Monday for a two-week U.N. biodiversity summit, COP16, in Cali, Colombia, they will be under pressure to prove their support for the goals laid out in the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework agreement.

A top concern for countries and companies is how to pay for conservation, with the COP16 talks aiming to develop new initiatives that could generate revenues for nature.

"We have a problem here," said Gavin Edwards, director of the nonprofit Nature Positive. "COP16 is an opportunity to re-energise and remind everybody of their commitments two years ago and start to course correct if we're going to get anywhere close to 2030 targets being achieved."

The rate of nature destruction through activities like logging or overfishing has not let up, while governments miss deadlines on their biodiversity action plans and funding for conservation is billions of dollars away from meeting a 2025 goal.

The summit in Colombia, marking the 16th meeting of nations that signed the original 1992 Convention on Biodiversity, is set to be the largest biodiversity summit to date, with some 23,000 delegates registered to participate as well as a large exhibition area open to the public.

There has been no let up in destructive activities like logging and overfishing, but governments have missed their deadlines on action plans, and funding is well short of the goal

Whether the participation and pressure can push countries towards bolder conservation actions remains to be seen.

The clearest sign of lagging efforts is the fact that most countries have yet to submit national conservation plans, known officially as National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs), though they had agreed to do so by the start of COP16.

As of October 18, 31 out of 195 countries had filed a plan with the U.N. biodiversity secretariat.

Richer nations have been quicker to file, including many European nations, Australia, Japan, China, South Korea, and Canada. The United States attends the talks but has never ratified the Convention on Biodiversity, so is not obligated to submit a plan.

Another 73 countries as of October 18 had opted to only file a less ambitious submission that sets out their national targets without details of how they would be achieved.

With so few plans filed, experts will likely struggle to gauge progress in meeting the agreement's hallmark "30 by 30" goal of preserving 30% of the land and sea by 2030.

Colombia's Environment Minister Susana Muhamad, who also serves as COP16's president, said the summit must also address why so many others are late. "It could be that the funds are not enough, for example, to be able to produce the plans," she said.

Poorer countries have had a harder time finding the funding and expertise needed to develop national biodiversity plans, World Wide Fund for Nature advocacy chief Bernadette Fischler Hooper said.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The great women of mathematics

Siva Shakthi A.

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

The X is a bell-shaped curve generated from a circle and two diametrically opposite points on it to study problems in probability. The curve was first described by Italian mathematician Maria Agnesi in 1748. Name X.

QUESTION 2

The Y theorem, established in 1918, states that for every continuous symmetry in a system, there is an associated quantity that is conserved. This is why, for example, the conservation of momentum is a direct consequence of the outcome of any physical process being the same no matter where in space it happens. Name the mathematician who discovered Y.

QUESTION 3

Name the mathematician who used the principles of geometry and Kepler's laws to calculate the trajectories of several NASA missions, including Apollo 11. She later became the first woman in the Flight Research Division despite racial and gender discrimination and inspired the 2016 film *Hidden Figures*.

QUESTION 4

In the early 19th century, French number theorist Sophie Germain laid the foundation for proving certain cases of the Z theorem, which states that if $a^n + b^n = c^n$, where a, b, and c are whole numbers, then n can't be greater than 2. Name Z.

QUESTION 5

In 1858, this nurse and her team treated soldiers injured during the Crimean War. Using statistics, she studied the mortality dynamics in the hospital and discovered unsanitary conditions were the leading cause of death. Name her.

Answers to October 17 quiz:

1. German astronomer for whom 1ES 1727-21.4 *et al.* is named – **Ans: Johannes Kepler**
2. Common (Greek) name of Serpentarius constellation – **Ans: Ophiuchus**
3. Supernova of 1572 comparable to Kepler's star in brightness – **Ans: Tycho's nova**
4. Supernova type of Tycho's nova – **Ans: Type Ia supernova**
5. German astrologer with whom Kepler corresponded – **Ans: Helisaeus Roeslin**

Visual: **Tycho Brahe, Q3**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Abhijith S. Kumar | Ketan Kumar Singh | Anmol Agrawal

Visual: Name this Iranian mathematician who won the 2014 Fields Medal for insights into the structure and dynamics of Riemannian surfaces and their relation to number theory. CREDIT: MARYERAUD9 (CC BY-SA 4.0)

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

AICTE makes it mandatory for colleges to follow its model curriculum for BBA course

It is permitting engineering colleges under Visvesvaraya Technological University to start BCA, BBA, and BMS programmes

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) has asked colleges to adopt its newly developed model curriculum for Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) programme started for technical education institutions from the academic year of 2024-25.

The AICTE is permitting engineering colleges under Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) to start Bachelor of Computer Applications (BCA), Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and Bachelor of Management Studies, (BMS) programmes in the State; six colleges are offering the courses – three in Bengaluru, and one each in Ramanagara, Mysuru, and Belagavi district.

A file photo of the Visvesvaraya Technological University.

"This curriculum is designed to meet the evolving demands of the business landscape, incorporating both foundational principles and emerging trends across various disciplines within a structured framework of 120 to 160 credits... The model curriculum emphasises interdisciplinary learning, experiential methodologies, and industry-relevant projects aimed at nurturing critical thinking, problem-solving abilities, and effective communication skills among students. Furthermore, it integrates summer internships to provide practical exposure and ensure alignment with industry requirements to bridge the gap between Industry and Academia," the AICTE said.

"The model curriculum also includes free Harvard Business publishing resources, case studies enabling students to understand the real-world business scenarios across various areas. These cases help students learn by doing and illustrate business concepts effectively," it said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, S. Vidyashankar, Vice Chancellor of VTU said, "AICTE's model curriculum for BBA programme is very advanced and progressive. The curriculum is designed to meet the evolving demands of the business landscape and emerging trends. It is mandatory to follow it and we will issue an order in this regard soon."

153-acre green space to come up in north Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Environment Minister Eshwar Khandre on Monday announced that a medicinal plant garden, bird sanctuary, mini zoo, tree park, and biological forest will be established in a 153 acre eucalyptus groove at Madappanahalli near Yelahanka.

The Minister who visited the eucalyptus groove said that north Bengaluru lacked green space like the Lalbagh Botanical Garden and Cubbon Park and to address this the government is planning to develop Indira Gandhi Biological Park, Vishwaguru Basavanna Medicinal Plant Garden, Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Bird Sanctuary, Nadaprabhu Kempegowda Mini Zoo, and Saalumaradа Thimmakka Tree Park on the 153 acre forest land.

Native species

He said that existing eucalyptus trees would be replaced with spellings of native species.

"There are many residential areas around Yelahanka, and the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) is also developing the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout, with around 25,000 plots. Additionally, there are already 5,000-6,000 houses in the area. In the future, about two lakh people will reside in this area. The establishment of Indira Gandhi Biological Park, the medicinal plant garden, tree park, and mini zoo will not only serve as a center of attraction but also provide an excellent lung space for the residents of this part of the city," he said.

He added the foundation for the parks will be laid in the last week of November.

'Pani puri' vendor bludgeoned to death over drunken brawl

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 28-year-old 'pani puri' vendor was bludgeoned to death over a drunken brawl in Electronics City police station limits on Sunday night .

The deceased has been identified as Sarvesh, a native Uttar Pradesh who was selling chat on the roadside for the last 12 years. According to the police, Sarvesh was living with his wife and five year old son at a rented house in Electronics City .

According to the police, Sarvesh on Sunday after work bought liquor at Konappana Agarahara circle and went to a vacant space opposite the shop to consume alcohol. Probe revealed that he had accompanied a few people and amidst an argument between them, the accused picked up a cobble stone and attacked Sarvesh.

Sarvesh sustained severe head injury and died on the spot . On Monday morning, passers-by noticed the body lying dead in a pool of blood and alerted the police.

The police tracked down the accused Rahul Kumar, 27 and Sahadev, 45, daily wage labourers for allegedly murdering Survesh.

Cook suffers burns in LPG explosion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The S.G. Palya police have registered a case

A 36-year-old cook sustained severe burns in an LPG explosion at his house in BTM Layout on Monday morning.

The injured Pawan worked as a cook in around five nearby apartments.

Due to the impact, a part of the wall of the house collapsed and panic gripped the other residents.

The incident occurred around 8.30 a.m. when Pawan switched on the cylinder and the stove to boil milk.

Neighbours woke up to the sound of explosion and rushed to his help and alerted the police and the fire department, Pawan was taken to a hospital, where he is being treated.

The S.G. Palya police have registered a case and are investigating to ascertain the cause of explosion.

Daily wage labourer injured in explosion in farmhouse at Sathanur

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 75-year-old daily wage labourer sustained severe injuries due to an explosion at the farmhouse where he was working in Sathanur police station limits of Ramanagara district recently

The victim, Sivanegowda, sustained severe injuries on his right hand and was rushed to Kanakapura government hospital from where he was shifted to Sanjay Gandhi hospital for further treatment .

The victim was working in the farmhouse belonging to Kunne Gowda. The victim was cleaning the fence and picking up fallen coconuts.

This is the second such incident as in the recent past, a cow was injured in the mouth while grazing at the field

While he was working with a sickle, he accidentally touched the substance placed near the fence, which exploded. The others working nearby rushed to his help and shifted him to a hospital, said the police.

The Sathanur police visited the spot and inspected the site of the explosion. The villagers complained to the Gram Panchayath over the explosive substances placed around the field by people to hunt wild animals .

This is the second such incident as in the recent past, a cow was injured in the mouth while grazing at the field and bite an explosive substance placed in the field to hunt wild animals .

The police are awaiting the recovery of the victim to record his statement for further investigation.

IndusInd Bank

Registered Office: 2401, Gen. Thimmayya Road, Cantonment, Pune - 411 001.
Website: www.indusind.com | **CIN:** L65191PN1994PLC076333

Branch Shifting Notice

We have scheduled shifting of the below branch to a new address.

Name of Branch / Code	Malleshwaram / 166
Old Address	IndusInd Bank Limited, Sri Ganesh Towers, No. 124, 3rd Main Road, Malleshwaram, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 003.
Banking & Locker Services available at old branch till	10th January, 2025
New Address	IndusInd Bank Limited, Ground Floor, No. 102, 5th Cross Road, Malleswaram, Ward No.77, Bengaluru, Karnataka - 560 003.
Banking & Locker Service commences at new branch address from	13th January, 2025

Detailed communication will be sent to all branch customers.

For assistance, please contact the below representatives.

S.M. Senthil Kumar (BM)	6362712373	mlka@indusind.com
Kavitha Bhaskar (DBM)	9741222350	mlka@indusind.com

Place: Mumbai
Date: October 22, 2024

For IndusInd Bank Limited
Sd/-
Authorised Signatory

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of recipients of the Kerala social security pension

62 in lakh. Kerala Finance Minister K. N.Balagopal said that these pensioners would receive ₹1,600 each. 5.88 lakh people receive an average of ₹300 as assistance from the central government. PTI

Haryana farmers arrested for stubble-burning

14 Stubble-burning in Haryana and neighbouring Punjab is often blamed for the rise in pollution levels in Delhi, especially during the post-harvest season of October and November. PTI

Online voter registrations rejected in MH's Tuljapur seat

6,090 When the administration scrutinised the applications received in Tuljapur, the applicants were not found residing in the village, an official said. PTI

New arms package for Ukraine: U.S. defence secretary

400 in $ million. U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin announced a new arms package for Ukraine during a visit to Kyiv, at a meeting with Volodymyr Zelensky. REUTERS

The sales from Jan Aushadhi outlets in the month of October

1,000 in ₹ crore. Notably, it took the Jan Aushadhi outlets until December to reach these figures in 2023. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

On sanctions and shadow fleets

What are Flags of Convenience? How do corporations with large fleets obscure ownership and origin of cargo? Why has India been accused of hosting a shadow fleet? What are the different ways through which ships make sure they don't lose their insurance?

EXPLAINER

M. Kalyanaraman

The story so far:

While covering the Russia-Ukraine conflict, many western media outlets have used the term 'shadow fleet' to describe tanker ships that carry Russian crude oil or oil products to other countries. The term conjures up images of pirate-like vessels and phantom owners trading in illegal, contraband substances. India has been painted as a host of a shadow fleet that is 'laundering' Russian crude.

How are sanctions implemented?

When the U.S. sanctions a country, as is the case with Russia, it launches investigations into entities, companies and individuals who violate the sanctions. Their assets in the U.S. are seized, bank accounts accessible to the western banking system are frozen and, sometimes, criminal prosecutions are launched against them. U.S. sanctions against Russian oil mandate that Russia can only sell its crude oil at $60 a barrel. Current market prices are at least $15 more. This is to ensure Russia doesn't profit much from oil sales and use that to fund its war effort in Ukraine.

What is structure of global shipping?

The global shipping industry is highly diversified. Greeks own 20% of the global merchant shipping fleet with China now crossing Japan to become the second leading nation in terms of merchant shipping fleet ownership. Most ships are built and repaired in China, Japan and South Korea. Yet, marine insurance, ship finance as well as global shipping regulations revolve around the U.K. and rest of Europe. U.S. sanctions are sought to be enforced through these levers.

Each ship is associated with different stakeholders at various nations and locations. Although tracking systems allow authorities to access previous ports of call, some companies do succeed in hiding the original source of their cargo. Ships are registered in particular nations called flag states as they fly that country's flag. Flag states were meant to indicate the origins of the ship.

Full throttle: The crude oil tanker RN Polaris near the port city of Nakhodka, Russia, in 2022. REUTERS

To beat sanctions, ships often hop between flags. There are Flags of Convenience (FoCs), such as Panama and Liberia, which started out as tax avoidance entities, and to avoid too rigorous a scrutiny or inspection of a ship. FoCs obscure the ownership of ships. Then there are classifications societies (class, in shipping parlance) that certify ship structures and machinery for safety of life at sea and marine pollution, facilitating insurance cover for these. An insurance type called Protection and Indemnity (P&I) covers loss of life and damage to property. These P&I insurance firms form 'clubs' to pool the risk.

How do ships keep their insurance?

Turkey, a member of the NATO, has been found to be extensively trading in Russian oil. A Turkish-owned ship found to be trading in Russian oil at more than $60 a barrel may lose its P&I club, since clubs are controlled from London and the U.S. has leverage there. However, the owner can divest the management of the vessel and contract with a European manager that has P&I cover. And the ship will be back in business with the same owner but with a new European manager. Corporations with large fleets often set up shell companies that own just one or two ships. Such complex ownership structures hide the true identity of a ship and its owner. Yet, another phenomenon is registering the ships within jurisdictions that are not compliant with regulatory agencies such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Eswatini, a country in southern Africa, is not a signatory to the IMO charter. It has therefore emerged as a FoC.

What is the accusation against India?

Soon after sanction enforcements, many Russian ships struck alliances with Indian firms. Many switched their base to Dubai where Indians have a presence in shipping. The Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), a classification society, did see an increase in the ships it was certifying, bolstering charges of Indian involvement in shadow fleets. Noting that it has been linked to Russian shipping entities, the IRS said its primary responsibility is to the safety of a vessel and that it will not be compromised. IRS reported that it has indeed been asked to provide safety-related classification services to a number of vessels by Dubai-based entities. These vessels were registered under the flag administrations of Liberia and Cyprus and none flew the Russian flag, the IRS reported.

In 2015, when Iran was sanctioned, some 160 ships, many with trade links to Iranian oil, switched their classification society to the Korean Register of shipping – Korea is a U.S. ally. Sometimes renaming a vessel can help to erase association with sanctions.

Can U.S. sanctions be enforced?

Many agencies and shipping experts acknowledge that sanctions on Russian oil cannot be rigorously enforced because of its potential impact on world economy, the complex ways in which the shipping industry is structured, and because ownerships and origins of stakeholders are obscure and often based on voluntary disclosure.

More recently, the *BBC* reported that the U.K. had taken action only mild action against some 35 U.K. companies found to have violated the price cap set by sanctions. Industry voices there say that taking strong action would be bad for U.K. businesses.

THE GIST

- Ships are registered in particular nations called flag states as they fly that country's flag. Flag states were meant to indicate the origins of the ship. To beat sanctions, ships often hop between flags.
- Another phenomenon is registering the ships within jurisdictions that are not compliant with regulatory agencies such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO).
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On Railways decision to shrink advance booking period

Has the Railways shortened the Advance Reservation Period before? How do longer booking windows give rise to frauds? Are these rules extended to foreign passengers as well?

Maitri Porecha

The story so far:

One could book railway tickets four months in advance for long journeys. Now passengers will only be able to book tickets on Indian Railways two months in advance, a circular released by the Railway Board earlier this month stated.

When will the Advance Reservation Period (ARP) be effective?

The circular states that the new ARP rules will kick in from November 1, 2024 onwards, and that the booking window for passengers to reserve their tickets will open 60 days in advance (excluding the actual day of journey). However, if a passenger has booked any tickets up to October 31 (under the earlier 120-day period rule), all those bookings will remain intact, and the passenger also has the facility to cancel those tickets at will.

By shortening the reservation period to 60 days, the Railways has reversed its 16-year old policy of reserving tickets 120 days in advance, which had kicked in from May 1, 2008. Before this, from 1995 to 2007, the booking window was restricted to 60 days. Interestingly, between 1988 to 1993, Railways had experimented with shortening the advance booking window to as less as only 45 days. Before this, once between 1981 to 1985, the Railways had opened the ARP for a 90-day window.

Why was such a decision taken?

Railways officials observed that 120 days was too long a period for planning journeys, and that it led to a high amount of ticket cancellations. "Currently, up to 21% passengers who book their tickets end up cancelling them," a senior official stated. While allotting seats/berths, officials also observed that there was a wastage of seats/berths because of passengers who would not turn up for journeys and at the same time would not bother to cancel their tickets. "4% to 5% passengers don't turn up (which is considered as no show)," the official further said. "Another trend Railways noticed is that between 88% to 90% rail reservations occur in the period of 60 days, hence it was thought prudent to reduce the ARP," another senior official told *The Hindu*.

Do longer booking windows increase frauds?

The rationale given by the officials to reduce ARP is that when passengers do not cancel their tickets and do not turn up for journeys, it opens up possibilities for fraud. "We observed frauds such as impersonation, railway officials taking money illegally to allot empty berths etc. With shortening reservation period this could be prevented," the official said.

Secondly, there is an immense challenge of curtailing touts that operate on the railway network. "When reservation periods are longer, there is a greater chance that touts end up blocking a substantial tranche of tickets. Shortening the period of ARP will encourage purchase of more tickets by genuine passengers," the official added.

Parallelly, Railway officials state that the decision to either reduce or increase the ARP window is open for debate. "There are two opposing camps that debate how to fix the ARP window. There is one camp in the Ministry that believes in opening up advance reservation for the entire year, and that passengers should be allowed to book and cancel tickets round the year during the period of 365 days. This camp believes that opening up the reservation window year-long will fetch railways revenues in advance. However this facility is currently only available for foreign tourists, who avail of a certain quota to plan their train journeys across India," the official added.

Which groups of passengers are exempt from ARP rule?

Apart from foreign tourists, the Union Railway Ministry had stated that there is no impact on General class tickets as they are purchased just before the journey. It has also stated that for certain trains like Taj Express and Gomti Express it was noticed that tickets are booked almost immediately by passengers who wish to travel in these sitting trains. "They are exempt from ARP rule as passengers who wish to travel in these trains book tickets almost immediately a day or two in advance," the first official added.

THE GIST

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- Railways officials observed that 120 days was too long a period for planning journeys, and that it led to a high amount of ticket cancellations.
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‘Is this a bus stop, or auto and cab stand?’

The illegal occupation of bus stops by autorickshaws and cabs has become a common sight across city, making it hard for passengers and bus drivers

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Many bus stops have been encroached upon by autorickshaws. K. MURALI KUMAR

For Rathna Sekhar, catching her daily bus from the Bilekahalli bus stop on Bannerghatta Main Road to Shanthinagar has become a daily struggle. The reason? Autorickshaws and cabs illegally park right in front of the bus stop, making it nearly impossible for her to board the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) bus there.

“Every morning, I see autos and cabs blocking the bus stop. The buses have no choice but to stop in the middle of the road, and by the time I try to get on, the vehicles behind the bus start honking impatiently. It’s frustrating, and I sometimes miss my bus altogether,” she explains, echoing the frustrations of many Bengaluru commuters. The problem Ms. Sekhar faces is part of a larger issue plaguing the city’s public transport network.

The illegal occupation of BMTC bus stops by autorickshaws and cabs has become a common sight across Bengaluru, which makes the situation hard not just for passengers, but also for bus drivers.

BMTC drivers find it increasingly difficult to manoeuvre at designated stops, as autorickshaws blatantly ignore the buses and stop at the bus stops, which prevents them from halting near the designated shelters.

The result is traffic congestion, delays, and safety hazards for pedestrians, and commuters alike.

Autos take over

Many bus stops, such as those in BTM Layout and Banashankari, have been encroached upon by autorickshaws. Private cabs too have begun using these areas as convenient pick-up and drop-off points, adding to the chaos. This unlawful occupation forces BMTC buses to stop in the middle of the road, delaying traffic and causing inconvenience to passengers waiting to board.

Malavika N., a regular BMTC commuter from J.P. Nagar, highlights the extent of the problem. “We’ve been seeing this for years. There’s hardly any effort by the traffic police to stop autos and cabs from using the bus shelters for their convenience. It’s frustrating when the bus has to stop far from the designated area because autos are blocking the way. Passengers are often left in the middle of the road trying to board the bus, which is both inconvenient and dangerous.”

Missed buses, traffic

Another senior citizen, Prasad N. Kumar, from Indiranagar, said, “There are times when bus drivers simply skip stopping at the bus shelter because autos are parked right in front of it. Instead, they stop in the middle of the road, forcing passengers like me to dash through traffic to board. I’ve even seen bus drivers honking at the auto drivers to move, but it often escalates into heated arguments between the bus and auto drivers. As a senior citizen, this situation makes it incredibly difficult to board the bus safely.”

BMTC officials acknowledge the issue, stating they have been trying to tackle the problem by deploying their ‘Sarathi’ vehicles across the city. These vehicles patrol bus stops, making sure that autos and cabs are not parked illegally. A senior BMTC official said, “We are aware of the growing problem of autos and private vehicles occupying bus stops. We have instructed our Sarathi patrol teams to ensure that these vehicles do not misuse bus stop spaces.”

In Bengaluru, there are approximately 8,500 bus shelters maintained by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

A senior Bengaluru Traffic Police official added, “We regularly conduct drives to ensure that autos and cabs do not park in prohibited areas, especially near BMTC bus stops.”

However, bus commuters are demanding for stricter enforcement. “When the emphasis is on getting more people to take the bus and metro in a traffic congested city like Bengaluru, the authorities should work together to make public transport more convenient than existing options. But even today, we are fighting for something as basic as ensuring that bus stops are free of private vehicles,” said Meera, who boards the bus at Maruthinagar in Malleshpalya, often tackling parked private vehicles.

From Page One

BJP leader Yogeshwar resigns as MLC

The NDA leaders have left the Channapatna seat to JD(S) as its leader H.D. Kumaraswamy held the seat before entering the Lok Sabha.

However, considering the present political situation in which Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar himself is personally monitoring the Congress’ bypoll preparations in the constituency, NDA leaders had decided to ask Mr. Yogeshwar to contest on JD(S) ticket.

His future political moves are being closely watched as any division of votes in Channapatna may turn the bypoll into a challenge for the JD(S), which is considering the possibility of fielding Mr. Nikhil Kumaraswamy.

D.K. Suresh, former MP for Bengaluru Rural and brother of Mr. Shivakumar, too, disclosed on Sunday that there was pressure on him to contest from Channapatna.

Of the three Assembly seats that are going to the polls in Karnataka, the Channapatna seat has hogged attention as it has turned out to be a prestige battle between two Vokkaliga heavyweights – Union Minister Mr. Kumaraswamy and Mr. Shivakumar.

Mr. Shivakumar, who was crestfallen after his brother lost the Lok Sabha polls from Bengaluru Rural and the party lost most of the seats in the Vokkaliga belt, is keen to redeem the pride by ensuring a Congress victory in Channapatna.

At the same time, Mr. Kumaraswamy is determined to send a message that his hold in the region cannot be challenged.

‘Prajwal’s acts *prima facie* depict wanton lust’

Pointing out that the allegation was that most of the accused in the entire episode of crime had allegedly indulged in threatening the witnesses, the court said that “it cannot be ruled out in the case of the petitioner, if he is released on bail”.

Quoting a judgment of the apex court on sexual offences against women, Justice Nagaprasanna said that that “if what is considered by the apex court to be impact of a rape or impact of outraging the modesty of the woman, the offence against the petitioner is undoubtedly grave. Though the charge sheet is filed in the case at hand, there is no warrant for the petitioner being released on bail”.

What SIT alleged

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) has alleged that Mr. Prajwal had himself recorded his forced sexual acts with the complainants on a mobile phone and threatened the women of releasing the videos if they revealed the incident.

While denying the charges, Mr. Prajwal had sought bail on the grounds that there was delay of three to four years in lodging complaints of alleged offences and there could not be any hindrance for grant of bail as investigation had been completed in all the cases and charge sheets have been filed against him.

‘State govt. should make efforts to seek Centre’s guidance on internal quota among SCs’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The meeting of Dalit Ministers and leaders was held at Home Minister G. Parameshwara’s residence. FILE PHOTO

Ministers belonging to the Dalit community held a meeting at Home Minister G. Parameshwara’s residence on Monday and unanimously agreed that the State government must make efforts to seek guidance from the Central government on implementing the internal reservation among the Scheduled Castes.

A Minister told *The Hindu* that the State government should not go back on providing internal quota for the Scheduled Castes, as the Congress had promised it at a convention in Chitradurga and in its 2023 poll manifesto.

The Supreme Court judgment held that States could sub-classify the Scheduled Castes to give preferential reservation to the most backward among them based on empirical data. The Minister said empirical data could only be availed if the census was completed. The Centre had not conducted the 2021 Census. Hence, the State Cabinet should discuss the issue and appeal to the Union government to provide guidance.

The Haryana BJP government had already decided to implement the internal quota among Dalits, the Minister said.

‘The State government should not go back on providing internal quota for the Scheduled Castes’

The meeting, which was also attended by leaders of the community, discussed the difficulties faced by Scheduled Caste members in availing themselves of caste certificates. There are over 100 subcastes in the Scheduled Castes list.

The SC (Right), Banjara, and Bhovi caste group leaders have been demanding that the State government address the confusion prevailing over issuance of caste certificates to Adi Karnataka and Adi Dravida (SCs).

Ministers H.C. Mahadevappa, Priyank Kharge, and K.H. Muniyappa were among those who attended the meeting, sources said.

State restrained from declaring results of half-yearly exams

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

No other State follows this model of education which is followed by Karnataka, the apex court said. FILE PHOTO

The Supreme Court pulled up the Karnataka government for “harassing” students by conducting board exams for different classes on Monday, and restrained it from declaring results of board examinations of classes 8, 9, and 10 till further orders.

A Bench of Justices Bela M. Trivedi and Satish Chandra Sharma directed that if the exam has not been conducted in any district, then it shall not be taken.

“Why are you harassing the students? You are the State. You should not behave like this. Don’t make it an ego issue. If you are really concerned about the welfare of students, then please open good schools. Don’t throttle them,” the Bench told senior advocate Devadatt Kamat, appearing for the Karnataka government.

The court said no other State follows this model of education which is being followed by the Karnataka government. Mr. Kamat said that the State government has withdrawn a circular for conducting board examinations for students of classes 5, 8, 9, and 11 in the current academic year in seven rural districts of the State.

The Supreme Court was told that the examination was conducted in 24 other districts as well.

The top court asked the State government to file an affidavit giving the exact details of the examination in four weeks.

The top court was hearing an appeal filed by Organisation for Unaided Recognised Schools against the March 22, judgement of the Karnataka High Court.

The High Court’s Division Bench had permitted the State government to conduct the board exams for different classes for the academic year 2023-24, overruling the March 6 order of a single judge’s Bench.

The single judge of the High Court had nullified the State government’s decision of October 2023 to hold board exams for different classes through the KSEAB.

(With inputs from PTI)

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, OCT. 22	
RISE	06:11 SET 17:57
RISE	22:32 SET 11:01
WEDNESDAY, OCT. 23	
RISE	06:11 SET 17:57
RISE	23:31 SET 11:57
THURSDAY, OCT. 24	
RISE	06:11 SET 17:56
RISE	00:00 SET 12:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C Day will be slight warm. Few spells of moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds will occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C The weather will be comfortable. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

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THE HINDU
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Yakshagana comedy actor Bantwal Jayarama Acharya passes away

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Well-known Yakshagana comedy actor Bantwal Jayaram Acharya passed away in Bengaluru on Monday. He was 67. He is survived by his wife, a daughter, and a son.

Acharya was in Bengaluru to perform in a show at Puttige mutt in Basavanagudi.

Professional artist

He was a professional artist with about five decades of experience. He had performed in Yakshagana melas of Amtady, Swarnadu, Kateel, Puttur, Sunkadakatte, Kadri, Kumble, Surathkal, Yedaneer, Hosanagara and Hanumagiri. He was an artist with the Hanumagiri mela since 2017.

He was a recipient of the honorary award of Karnataka Yakshagana Academy.

Acharya had performed almost all comedy roles of Yakshagana.

In addition, he had performed roles such as Daruka, Vijaya, Bahuka, and Mookasura.

Rarely he had performed the roles of Kamsa, Krishna, Jamadagni, Bhasmasura and Mahishasura as special attraction.

Last respects paid

His body was brought from Bengaluru to his residence at Bantwal in the evening, where many of his fans paid last respects. The mortal remains were cremated in Bantwal.

Captain Brijesh Chowta, Dakshina Kannada MP, visited Bantwal and paid his last respects.

Government of Karnataka
SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE MEDICAL COLLEGE & RESEARCH INSTITUTE, BENGALURU.
(An Autonomous Institute)
No:SABVMCRI/E-TENDER/INS/02/2024-25 (CALL-2) Date:19.10.2024

Tender Notification

Subject : Regarding inviting short-term e-tenders for purchase of equipment required for Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital under Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute.

Tenders are invited from interested firms in sealed covers as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 for purchase of equipment required for Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospital under Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute. Tender Form, EMD details and conditions are available in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in and a non-refundable DD of **Rs.2,000/-** as tender processing fee should be drawn and submitted in the name of the Director and Dean, Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Centre and the receipt (acknowledgement) should be attached to this tender. Interested tenderers should register in e-procurement portal. The required details can be viewed in website. For more details contact email : **sabvmcri@gmail.com** and telephone No. **+91-8431188388.**

1) The starting date for uploading tender : **19.10.2024. 2)** The last date for clarifications on tender : **23.10.2024, upto 4.00 P M. 3)** The last date for uploading the tender : **28.10.2024 upto 4.00 P M. 4)** Opening of tender (1st cover): **30.10.2024 at 10.30 A M.**

For more details pertaining to this tender, contact the Director and Dean/ Assistant Administrator of the Institute during office hours.

Sd/-
Director and Dean,
Sri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Medical College and Research Institute Bengaluru

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CACHE

GETTY IMAGES

How policies shape high-performance building standards and climate goals

Governments are trying to adopt high-performance buildings through policies and financing mechanisms that promote energy efficiency, resource management, and carbon neutrality. India has made significant progress through initiatives under its National Action Plan on Climate Change

Sandhya Patil

In response to the pressures of climate mitigation as well as adaptation, High-Performance Buildings (HPBs) are emerging as essential solutions in the construction sector. They address both urban and climate challenges since the built environment contributes to these issues and presents opportunities for change. HPBs are designed to reduce greenhouse-gas emissions, minimise energy and water use, and cut operational costs using climate-adaptive designs. They also improve their occupants' well-being, making them attractive to both businesses and occupants.

Beyond environmental benefits, HPBs offer financial advantages like enhanced property value, lower utility bills, and access to carbon financing. Governments worldwide are trying to adopt HPBs through progressive policies and financing mechanisms that promote energy efficiency, resource management, and carbon neutrality. India is also beginning to align its policy frameworks and business strategies to support these structures.

Policies supporting energy efficiency

Energy efficiency is central to HPB design and drives sustainable construction practices. Many governments are actively promoting energy-efficient buildings as part of their climate strategies.

The European Union's 'Green Deal', which targets climate neutrality by 2050, mandates energy-efficient building designs and retrofits. Germany's KfW Bank offers low-interest loans for energy-efficient projects while Denmark's strict BR18 building codes provide incentives for sustainable construction practices. In the U.S., programmes like Energy Star and the LEED certification encourage energy efficiency and offer tax credits for green-building initiatives.

The construction industry contributes about 39% of energy-related carbon dioxide emissions worldwide, and these policies suggest reducing energy consumption isn't just technically feasible: it could be financially viable, too, with the right incentives.

How is India supporting HPBs?

India has made significant progress in promoting energy-efficient buildings through initiatives under its National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Energy Conservation Building Code (ECBC), developed by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), aims to reduce buildings' energy demands by up to 30%. The Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment (GRIHA) lists more than 3,000 registered projects focusing on sustainable practices and lowering carbon emissions. The Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) promotes energy-efficient designs, with more than 14,000 certified projects covering 12.5 billion sq. ft.

Hyderabad, Noida, and Pune also offer higher floor area ratios and other incentives for buildings that meet ECBC standards, leading to a noticeable increase in green registrations and thus significant energy savings. The BEE is targeting 30% of new buildings to achieve net-zero status by 2030, in line with the national commitment.

How do HPBs make financial sense?

As green technologies become more affordable, the initial cost difference between conventional buildings and high-performance buildings is narrowing. HPBs deliver substantial energy savings and reduce emissions at little or no incremental costs compared to conventional buildings.

For example, Infosys successfully integrated energy-efficient designs into its campuses, using natural lighting, energy-efficient air conditioning, and smart performance verification. This reduced its energy consumption by up to 45%, resulting in significant cost savings. HPBs also improve indoor air quality and thermal comfort, contributing to employee well-being.

HPBs also command higher property values due to lower operating costs, smaller environmental footprint, and growing demand from environmentally conscious buyers and tenants. These properties benefit from enhanced asset valuation, driven by higher net operating incomes, lower vacancy rates, and longer lease durations. The financial benefits of energy efficiency translate to better capitalisation rates, which investors use to assess the value of a property relative to its income potential.

In India, commercial properties with green certifications like IGBC, GRIHA or LEED attract premium rents and have higher occupancy. Examples include ITC's Green Centre in Gurugram, the TCS Siruseri IT Park in Chennai, the Nirlon knowledge Park in Mumbai, and Embassy's commercial developments in Bengaluru.

How are HPBs financed?

Carbon financing supports HPBs by converting their carbon savings into financial value, easing the way for developers to secure funding. Carbon credits – tradable permits allowing companies to offset their carbon emissions – play a key role in this process. Projects earn these credits by reducing emissions and/or removing carbon from the atmosphere.

In regions with carbon pricing, like the European Union and China, HPBs that improve energy efficiency and lower emissions can generate carbon credits. These carbon credits provide a significant financial incentive for developers to invest in sustainable building practices. However, to maximise the potential of these systems, it's important to strengthen the accounting practices and ensure better transparency in the monitoring, reporting, and verification of the credits.

Green bonds and climate-focused funds also offer ways to finance HPBs. In 2020 alone, green bonds worth $269.5 billion were issued worldwide. Investors are increasingly interested in projects that align with sustainability goals. Global organisations like the World Bank and the Green Climate Fund also provide financial support for HPBs.

These financing mechanisms help offset the higher upfront costs of building HPBs, making them more affordable and promoting their wider use. By participating in carbon markets, trading energy and carbon savings, and securing green or climate funding, developers can make HPBs more financially viable while also contributing to global efforts to reduce carbon emissions.

Sandhya Patil is a sustainability expert with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and anchors technical assistance for ASSURE. The author does not have any financial interests vested with any company or organisation that would benefit from this article.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

India-Canada relations are going through a difficult period at the moment. A quiz on the Indian diaspora in Canada and their contributions

Venkataraghavan. S

QUESTION 1

Which province in Canada has a deep historical connection with India due to Sikh immigration in the early 20th century? What is the name of the oldest Gurdwara established there by the Sikh community?

QUESTION 2

What was the name of the famous ship that in 1914 was carrying Indian passengers, mainly Sikhs, but was denied entry into Canada under restrictive immigration laws. How has this event been remembered in Canadian history?

QUESTION 3

Which Canadian Prime Minister, known for his multicultural policies, introduced a system that allowed more immigrants from non-European countries, leading to a significant rise in Indian immigration to Canada during the 1970s?

QUESTION 4

The city of Surrey (BC) is home to a large Indo-Canadian community. The city hosts an annual event celebrating multiculturalism, where Indian food, music, and traditional dances are prominently featured, reflecting the blend of cultures in Canada. What is the name of this unique annual festival that has been going on from 2008?

QUESTION 5

Which Canadian MP, of Indian descent, is known for her role as Minister of National Defence, becoming the first woman and the first South Asian to hold this position in Canadian history?

Visual question:

Identify this famous Indo-Canadian filmmaker who was nominated for an Academy Award for her film that depicted Indian cultural struggles. What was the name of the film that was part of her *Elements* trilogy?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. The father of Indian football. **Ans: Nagendra Prasad Sarbadhakari**

2. This club is regarded as the first football club in India. It was originally intended for this sport. **Ans: Calcutta FC; Rugby**

3. The Indian football team set out on its first known official international tour in this year to this country. **Ans: 1924; to Sri Lanka**

4. This is the first official international tournament that India participated in. **Ans: London Olympics in 1948**

5. Name the India footballer who scored one of the quickest goals in international football just 12 seconds after kick-off. **Ans: I.M. Vijayan**

6. This person was the first footballer to win a Padma award. **Ans: Gostha Pal**

Visual: Identify this defender. **Ans: V. P. Sathyan**

Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya| Piyali Tuli| Laksh Mundhra| Varghese Joseph| Godfrey Pereira

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmaman Upendran

"... and that should put an end to your problem."

"Temporarily, may be. But I'm not interested in a band-aid solution."

"Band-aid solution? What does it mean?"

"A band-aid solution is not a permanent, but a temporary solution to a problem. Something that has been put together hastily."

"It's a stop-gap arrangement, you mean?"

"Yes, that's right. Our politicians are only interested in a band-aid solution to the water problem."

"That's understandable, isn't it? If they find a permanent solution to it, then people will stop going to them."

"But that doesn't.."

"Let's not talk about politicians. They have always been accused of being negligible of their duties."

"The word you're looking for is not 'negligible,' but 'negligent.' When you say that something is 'negligible,' it means that it is so small that it is not worth considering or worrying about. The profit that the company made last year was negligible."

"The errors that Sampras made in the final were negligible. How's that?"

"Very good. 'Negligent,' on the other hand, means 'careless'. When you are negligent, you don't give enough attention to what you are doing or should be doing. Many parents accuse their children of being negligent of their duties."

"Can I say, the company collapsed because of the Chairman's negligence?'

"Yes, you can. And remember, in both 'negligible' and 'negligent', the stress is on the first syllable."

"And the 'i' in the second syllable of the two words is pronounced like the 'i in words like 'fit', 'pit' and 'kit'."

"Right again "

"Now, shall we move on to...."

"Wait. Negligent has another meaning as well. It means 'pleasantly casual,' 'careless in a pleasant way'."

"Pleasantly casual? How can a careless person be pleasantly casual?"

"Well, most careless people are very casual about whatever they do. If you say that somebody's way of dressing is negligent, it means he/she is very informally dressed and looks very relaxed. Here, 'negligent' has a good connotation."

"That's the way I dress."

"No way. Here are some more examples. Ramu sat negligently on the wall smoking a cigarette."

'I didn't know that Ramu smoked."

"I was just giving an example, silly. Here's another one. Srikala conversed with negligent ease in French."

"That's not surprising. She lived in France for ten years."

"Let's discuss about something else."

"How many times do I have to tell you 'discuss' is not followed by the word 'about'."

"Sorry. Let's discuss something else."

"Remember, you can have a discussion about something, but you discuss something."

Published in The Hindu on September 28, 1993.

Word of the day

Shrivel:

wither, as with a loss of moisture; decrease in size, range, or extent

Synonyms: shrink, wither

Usage: *My courage shrivelled when I saw the task before me.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/shrivelpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ʃɹɪvəl/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Gridlock on city outskirts offsets gains of smooth ride on Bengaluru-Mysuru highway

While traffic management efforts are under way, with additional police personnel deployed on weekends, better coordination among authorities is still needed, say traffic experts

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Driving from Mysuru to Bengaluru on the smooth, access-controlled highway, a distance of around 120 km, takes less than two hours – until you hit a wall of traffic after descending from the Kumbalgodu elevated flyover. The situation worsens in the evenings, with over 70,000 vehicles using the highway on weekends.

All the time that was saved on the highway is lost on the outskirts of Bengaluru. The last kilometre between Panchamukhi Ganesha temple and the NICE Road Junction is an exhausting crawl, taking at least an additional hour.

Ever since the highway was inaugurated on March 12, 2023, bumper-to-bumper traffic, especially at the Kumbalgodu elevated corridor, has become a persistent issue. Several solutions have been proposed, including extending the elevated flyover to the NICE Road Junction. While traffic management efforts are underway, with additional police personnel deployed on weekends, better coordination among authorities is still needed, say traffic experts. In addition, a foot-overbridge near the Challaghatta metro station is under construction to improve pedestrian safety and mitigate risks from heavy traffic.

Bumper-to-bumper traffic, especially at the Kumbalgodu elevated corridor, has become a persistent issue for motorists travelling between Bengaluru and Mysuru. K. MURALI KUMAR

A recent visit by *The Hindu* over the weekend revealed bumper-to-bumper traffic near the Panchamukhi Ganesha temple, where traffic from the flyover and service road merges.

Motorists' concerns
Sharath Kumar, a Mysuru-based businessman, shared his frustrations: "On weekends, entering and exiting the Kumbalgodu elevated corridor is nearly impossible. It's disheartening to see the time saved vanish from Challaghatta to Deepanjali Nagar."

Vinil Rao, another commuter, said. "I try to avoid peak hours, but the traffic buildup at the NICE Road Junction is still a major hassle, especially on weekends. After recent rains, the area after the elevated flyover was flooded. The authorities need to address both traffic and flooding. It feels like the highway is great until you hit the bottleneck, then it's endless waiting."

Reasons for bottleneck
Bengaluru traffic police acknowledge the issue. An official said, "The main cause of the bottleneck between NICE Road Junction and Panchamukhi Ganesha temple is that vehicles from Mysuru Road use the service road to avoid the toll. This leads to a convergence of traffic from both the elevated flyover and the service road. The situation improves slightly after the NICE Road Junction."

The official added, "We've urged the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike to address this. We deploy additional personnel on weekends to manage traffic, but it's only a temporary solution. The traffic volume here is just too high."

Local residents too shared the frustration. Nandini K. who lives in Kumbalgodu said, "The highway traffic affects our daily lives too. We're stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic because the authorities have failed to resolve the issue. Roads around Challaghatta, Kumbalgodu, Ramohalli, and Doddabale are always congested."

Metro corridor work
BBMP officials said they had recommended extending the elevated flyover to the NICE Road Junction. However, the presence of the metro corridor limits the scope for road expansion. We're now re-evaluating the options to see what can be done to alleviate the congestion."

Pedestrian safety
Pedestrian safety has also become a concern. With many people using the Challaghatta metro station, crossing the road has become dangerous due to a lack of infrastructure. In response, the National Highways Authority of India has approved the construction of a foot-overbridge near the station.

"The Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited will build the FoB soon, helping commuters cross safely amid heavy traffic," added the BBMP official.

Irregularities in approval for nursing colleges alleged

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Former syndicate members of Rajiv Gandhi University of Health Sciences (RGUHS) and several social activists have raised concerns about nursing colleges allegedly receiving approval despite failing to meet basic infrastructure requirements.

They have submitted a complaint to the government, calling for a thorough investigation into the approvals granted by the university during its 189th syndicate meeting, which recently cleared the establishment of new nursing colleges across the State.

Shivakumar, a social activist and one of the complainants, stated, "We have obtained documents from at least 20 colleges, and it has been clearly established that none of them meet the requirement of having a 100-bedded hospital, which is a key criterion for setting up a nursing college."

He further alleged that despite the Local Inspection Committees identifying deficiencies during their visits to these colleges, the syndicate still approved them.

Venugopal K.N., a former RGUHS syndicate member, added that while they currently have documents from 20 colleges, the number could rise if a full investigation is conducted.

In response to these allegations, the university's Vice Chancellor, M.K. Ramesh, denied any violations and urged the complainants to submit the relevant documents. "If there are any complaints of irregularities, we will carry out surprise inspections and take appropriate action," he assured.

DC appointed in-charge chairman of MUDA

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Deputy Commissioner of Mysuru Lakshmikanth Reddy has been appointed as the in-charge chairman of Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA), which has been in the news over alleged irregularities in the allotment of sites under 50:50 scheme.

Mr. Reddy's appointment as the new chairman of MUDA on Monday comes in the wake of the resignation submitted by K. Mari Gowda on October 16

The Deputy Commissioner's appointment as the new chairman of MUDA also comes in the midst of not only the ongoing probes by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Lokayukta, and one-man Commission headed by a retired judge of Karnataka High Court P.N. Desai against the irregularities in the allotment of sites but also a public outcry over alleged suspension of routine work in the MUDA.

While the private developers under the aegis of the Mysuru chapter of the Confederation of Real Estate Developers' Association of India (CREDAI) have been complaining about MUDA's failure to hold its periodic meetings to clear the pending projects and issue release orders for registration of sites, the general public has been complaining about the failure of the MUDA to attend to their applications including issue and transfer khathas.

Protest held
Meanwhile, a crowd gathered outside the MUDA office on Monday complaining against its failure to clear pending applications.

They alleged that their applications for fixing house tax and collecting property tax, besides issuing completion reports (CR) were pending. They also alleged that the registrations of properties by the sub-registrar had been stalled for want of e-khathas.

Even though the scam pertains to MUDA sites, the MUDA officials were refusing to issue and transfer khathas pertaining to MUDA approved layouts, alleged a protester.

Centre of Excellence in Agriculture to come up in Mandya

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Minister for Agriculture N. Cheluvarayaswamy on Monday said all taluks in Mandya district would get offices of the Assistant Directors of agriculture, and added the MLAs of the respective Assembly constituencies must come forward to identify suitable land for the offices.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for the Centre of Excellence, which will be built on the premises of the office of the Assistant Director of agriculture in Mandya at a cost of ₹2 crore, he said the centre would handle different departmental works.

Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy, who is also the Minister in charge of Mandya, said the government has taken steps to provide grants for the construction of permanent buildings for the Raitha Samparka Kendras that are functioning on rented premises. The kendras lack government buildings and are hence operating from rented buildings. The Minister said the tahsildars of the taluks and the Agriculture Department officers must coordinate and identify land for housing the offices of the assistant directors in every taluk.

Unique initiative: Pick up the basics of Kannada on your autorickshaw ride

Autorickshaw driver and content creator Azzu Sultan is doing his bit to bridge the language gap for non-Kannadiga passengers who board his vehicle

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

On the busy streets of Bengaluru, where the sounds of traffic and diverse languages merge, Azzu Sultan, an autorickshaw driver and content creator known as 'Auto Kannadiga', stands out with a unique mission.

A die-hard fan of legendary Kannada actor and director Shankar Nag, Azzu has taken it upon himself to bridge the language gap for non-Kannadiga passengers who board his vehicle. He doesn't just offer rides, but also teaches basic Kannada phrases through a laminated placard stuck inside his auto, to help his passengers navigate the city.

Daily phrases
The placard, titled 'Learn Kannada with Auto Kannadiga', features everyday phrases in Kannada translated into English, with the hope of helping non-Kannada speakers communicate better in the local

Azzu Sultan

language. The placard includes phrases to be used inside an auto like - 'Namaskara sir' (Hello sir), 'Naanu Kannada kalitha ideeni' (I am learning Kannada), 'Sir, swalpa nidanakkae hogi' (Sir, go slow) and phrases to be used outside an auto like - 'Sir, elli ideera?' (Sir, where are you), 'booking cancel madbedi' (Please do not cancel the booking) and more. The placard also comes with two QR codes, which provide a video demo of Azzu translating a couple of phrases from English to Kannada.

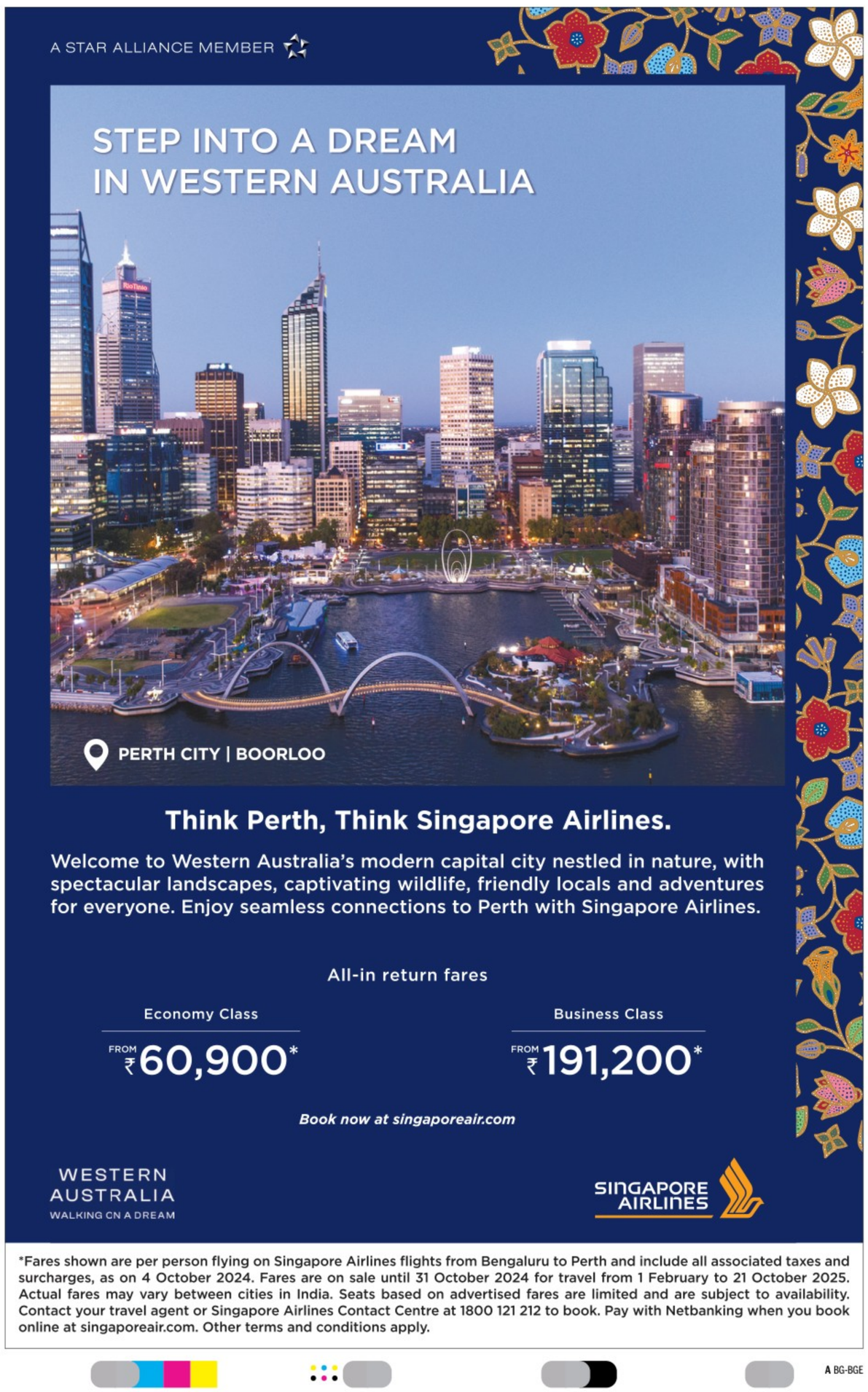
Speaking to *The Hindu*, 31-year-old Azzu, who grew up in Bagalkot and has been making a living in Bengaluru for a decade now, says he started the 'Learn Kannada with Auto Kannadiga' initiative to erase the dishonour the city has been receiving lately due to driver-commuter conflict. "The recent auto driver-customer conflicts have brought a bad name for Bengaluru and its auto drivers. We are known to be bad drivers all over India now, but I wanted to bring a change and want all auto drivers in our State to be recognised for a different reason," he said.

Azzu says that though he is well versed in Hindi, he chose to print the placard in English to make sure a majority of his customers learned the phrases. "I shared my plan with auto sanghas in the city and all of them said that they would support the initiative," he added.

As of Monday, Azzu has printed 500 placards and asked his fellow auto drivers to place them inside their autos.

"I started the initiative on Saturday, and so far, we have received a good response. Since I am an auto driver, I know where to place the card, and which is the right position to grasp the attention of customers. For now, I have printed only 500 placards out of my own earnings that I make by driving an auto and a minimal earning I get from the videos I post on social media. I am looking for sponsors and hopefully, I will be able to have enough placards for every auto and cab in the city. I have also put up the placards at a couple of autorickshaw stands near metro stations, which help many customers while they are waiting for a booked auto or cab to arrive," he said.

Azzu made his social media presence prominent months ago by vlogging his daily life as an auto driver, dancing on trending music and sharing his love for Kannada. He learned video editing a couple of months ago. He says that his friends and family have been his strength and support, and help him create content for social media.



Yogeshwar's resignation causes stress on NDA alliance

JD(S) leaders to meet party workers in Channapatna today before announcing decision on candidature

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The resignation of BJP MLC C.P. Yogeshwar from his Council position and announcement of contesting possibly as an Independent in the Channapatna bypolls has come as a twist to the poll plot. More importantly, it has caused stress on the NDA alliance in Karnataka in which the Janata Dal (Secular) is a partner. The JD(S) seems to be on the backfoot in the developing situation.

With Mr. Yogeshwar sending signals to Union Minister for Heavy Industries and Steel H.D. Kumaraswamy, whose resignation from Channapatna has necessitated the bypolls, asking him to consider his candidacy, he has put the ball in the JD(S) court.

C.P. Yogeshwar in conversation with B.S. Anand Singh in the Legislative Council. If the former chooses to contest as an Independent in the Channapatna Assembly bypolls, then it could favour the Congress. FILE PHOTO

Triangular fight?

If what eventually merges is a triangular fight in Channapatna, with Mr. Yogeshwar in fray as an Independent, the situation is expected to favour the Congress. A direct fight involving Mr. Yogeshwar as a BJP candidate opposite a Congress candidate would, local JD(S) leaders feared, lead to erosion of the party's base. This is believed to have prompted the JD(S) leaders to have offered the seat to the five-time former legislator from their party.

The strain on the alliance over the seat has been there for sometime, but it came to the fore on Sunday night when Mr. Kumaraswamy accused some BJP leaders of attempting to drive a wedge in the alliance with the help of the Congress. He indicated that some BJP leaders were working against the alliance.

The JD(S) party sources said that certain State-level Vokkaliga leaders were to be blamed for the current situation, though in meetings between the two parties, they had batted for JD (S) to choose the candidate. Though Mr. Yogeshwar had been offered seat to contest on JD (S) ticket after the intervention of BJP president J.P. Nadda, he has so far refused to consider it, they said. Party sources claimed Mr. Yogeshwar had refused to contest on JD(S) ticket hoping to keep his Muslim and backward classes voters in good faith. However, the JD(S) local leadership is against allowing Mr. Yogeshwar to contest on BJP ticket. Former Chief Minister and BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa has also said that the Channapatna seat is for the JD(S).

On Monday, while Nikhil Kumaraswamy told presspersons that the JD(S) had offered the seat, former Deputy Chief Minister C.N. Ashwathnarayan came in support of Mr. Yogeshwar's attempt to contest on BJP ticket. While the development seems to have taken the JD(S) by surprise, it did not come entirely unexpected, the JD (S) sources said.

Soon after Mr. Yogeshwar resigned in Hubballi, Mr. Nikhil met his grandfather and former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda and Mr. Kumaraswamy to discuss the developing situation. Party workers in Channapatna would be consulted on Tuesday before announcing the decision.

In Bengaluru, Leader of the Opposition i the Assembly R. Ashok said they had appealed to the party seniors to ensure ticket to Mr. Yogeshwar though the decision of Mr. Kumaraswamy, who represented the constituency, remains important. "Ultimately, an NDA candidate will contest from the seat," he said.

The Congress leaders, including Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, have refuted Mr. Kumaraswamy's claim that the Congress leaders had met and offered Congress ticket to Mr. Yogeshwar. However, the Congress sources have indicated earlier that confabulations have taken place.

BSP State president Krishnamurthy said that informally there have been discussions, and if Mr. Yogeshwar makes the move to join the BSP, it will be brought to the notice of national president Mayawati. "No formal meeting has taken place yet," he said.

Amid Channapatna imbroglio, BJP begins two-day meeting with State leaders

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BJP Central leadership began a two-day meeting with top leaders from the State in Delhi on Monday.

The meeting on Monday focussed on review of the ongoing membership drive of the party. The party has set an ambitious target of enrolling 1.5 crore members in Karnataka. Tuesday's meeting is expected to focus on the bypolls to three Assembly seats in Karnataka in which the two are being fought by BJP candidates while NDA partner JD(S) will fight in Channapatna.

Tuesday's meeting assumes political importance in the wake of BJP MLC C.P. Yogeshwar raising a banner of revolt by quitting as MLC to register his anguish over not getting party ticket to contest from Channapatna. The BJP, which has left the seat to the JD(S), is concerned as Mr. Yogeshwar has refused to contest on JD(S) ticket. What has become a worrisome factor for the party is the speculation that Mr. Yogeshwar is in touch with the Congress.

Union Minister and BJP national president J.P. Nadda with party national general secretary (organisation) B.L. Santhosh at a meeting in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

The bypoll contest is bound to turn tough for the NDA if Mr. Yogeshwar contests as an Independent or if the Congress fields him on its ticket.

Timing of issue

The BJP leaders are said to be concerned that rebellion in the party has come at a crucial juncture when the party's campaign against the Congress government in general and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in particular with respect to alleged irregularities in allotment of sites to his wife by MUDA has reached a crescendo.

Also, the party leadership is learnt to be keen to ensure that it does not create mistrust between the NDA allies. In this context, the party Central leadership may advise the State leaders on suitable strategies to be adapted.

80% of Congress workers want D.K. Suresh to contest Channapatna bypolls: DKS

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar on Monday claimed that over 80% of the Congress workers want his brother and former MP D.K. Suresh to contest the bypolls to the Channapatna Assembly constituency.

"I have made it clear to the party workers that they will have to work for the candidate chosen by the high command. We have not even come out of the big defeat in Bengaluru Rural constituency in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections," he said.

When pointed out that the Channapatna constituency gave a large lead to the Congress in the Lok Sabha elections, the KPCC chief said: "Mr. Suresh worked very hard for the Lok Sabha elections. We are confident of getting our candidate elected in the byelection too."

Responding to Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy's allegation that BJP MLC C.P. Yogeshwar, who resigned from the Council on Monday, was in touch with Congress leaders, Mr. Shivakumar said that "the politics of JD(S) party workers is different from the politics of Mr. Kumaraswamy", hinting that the party workers may not back the party's decisions.

Speaking to reporters, he said: "I have neither met Mr. Yogeshwar nor have spoken to him. I gave him the due respect that needs to be given to an MLC at the Independence Day function at Channapatna. Other than that, there has been no interaction between us."

Asked if Mr. Yogeshwar would be in a helpless situation if denied ticket from the NDA, he said: "I don't want to comment on the internal matter of the NDA."

State's economy outpaces national growth despite global headwinds; records 10% year-on-year rise in GST collections

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka has registered a robust Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) growth of 10.2% in FY 2023-24, significantly surpassing the national average of 8.2%, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

Karnataka achieved this despite severe challenges, including the worst drought in a decade and a slowdown in global IT markets, the State government informed on Monday.

Initially, the National Statistical Estimate (NSE) had projected a modest 4% GSDP growth for Karnataka, but this was revised to 13.1% by the end of the fiscal year, indicating early underestimation of the State's economic performance.

'Strategic governance'

The State's agriculture sector faced negative growth due to drought conditions, while its dependence on the IT and hardware sectors – accounting for 28% of its Gross State Value Added (GSVA) – made it vulnerable to global economic downturns.

The Indian IT industry's growth, which slowed from 15.5% in FY 2022 to 8% in FY 2023, reflected global recessionary fears and inflation. "However, Karnataka's economy remained resilient, thanks to strategic governance and diversified growth drivers," according to the State government.

For FY 2024-25, the NSE forecasts Karnataka's GSDP to grow at 9.4%, slightly below the national average projection of 10.5%. However, the Ministry of Finance projects a more optimistic 14% growth for the State, supported by strong fiscal indicators.

As of September 2024, Karnataka recorded a 10% year-on-year increase in GST collections, and a 24% surge in stamp duty revenue, signalling a healthy economic trajectory.

'Karnataka's per capita GSDP remains among the highest in India, on par with Telangana, reflecting the strength of Congress-led governance in both States. The State Government's pro-people policies, including its guarantees, have ensured that the benefits of growth reach all sections of society, fostering inclusive and equitable development', according to the State Government.

The government claimed: "Karnataka's success demonstrates the synergy between economic growth and social progress, making it a key engine of India's economy. With its innovative policies, business-friendly environment, and ability to adapt to challenges, Karnataka stands as a model for sustainable development."

Arsikere MLA complains about fake audio clip

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vidhana Soudha police have registered a case against unknown people for allegedly circulating a fake audio clip claiming to be the voice of Congress MLA K.M. Shivalinge Gowda, which went viral on social media.

In the audio, what is claimed to be the voice of Mr. Gowda, the speaker is heard talking about the distribution of money to influence voters in Hassan during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections. In his complaint to the police, the Arsikere MLA alleged that the audio with his "cloned voice" was leaked to the media on October 17 to tarnish his and his party's image.

Based on Mr. Gowda's complaint, a case was booked under the Information Technology Act and under Sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The police have initiated a probe to track the source of the audio clip.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

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11TH ANNIVERSARY

SHRI. R. CHAKRAPANI
29.11.1928 22.10.2013

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Family and Staff of
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ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.
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ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:/ಜಿಆಕುಕ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ/16/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19-10-2024

'ಇ – ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ಮೆಂಟ್' ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2024-25ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಅಧೀನ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಾಲಿ ಇರುವ ವಿವಿಧ ವೃಂದದ ಹುದ್ದೆಗಳಿಗೆ (ಶುಶ್ರೂಷಕ ಅಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಡಾಟಾ ಎಂಟ್ರಿ ಆಪರೇಟರ್, ವಾಹನ ಚಾಲಕರು ಹಾಗೂ ಡಿ ಗ್ರೂಪ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್ ಮತ್ತು ನಾನ್ ಕ್ಲಿನಿಕಲ್) ಮಾನವ ಸೇವೆಯನ್ನು ಹೊರ ಸಂಪನ್ಮೂಲದ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿಯ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ.

ಕ್ಯಾಲೆಂಡರ್ ಆಫ್ ಇವೆಂಟ್ಸ್

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ& ದಿನಾಂಕ: ಸಂ:ಜಿಆಕುಕ/ಯಾ/ಹೊಗುಸಿ/ಇ-ಟೆಂಡರ್/2024-25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: **2) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ :**ಅಂದಾಜು ರೂ. 1,00,00,000.00/- (ಒಂದು ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) **3)** ಇಎಂಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ: ರೂ. 2,00,000.00 (ಎರಡು ಲಕ್ಷರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳು ಮಾತ್ರ) **4)E-Portal** ಮೂಲಕ **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾರಂಭ &ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ.:** 19/10/2024 ರಿಂದ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 04/11/2024 ರವರೆಗೆ ಸಮಯ: ಸಂಜೆ 5.30ಗಂಟೆಯೊಳಗೆ. **5) E-portal** ನ **ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ &ಸಮಯ.:** 06/11/2024, ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **6) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ'ಲಕೋಟೆಯ ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಶೀಲನೆ ಮಾಡುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ &ಸಮಯ** : 07/11/2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 10.30ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **7) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಲಕೋಟೆಯನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ &ಸಮಯ:** 08/11/2024 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 4.30ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. **8) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕ ಸಬೇಕಾದ ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ ಹಾಗೂ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:** ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ. ಇ-ಮೇಲ್: dhoyadgiri2@gmail.com ದೂರವಾಣಿ:9449843067

ಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 5,6 ಮತ್ತು 7 ರ ದಿನಾಂಕ & ವೇಳೆ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಮತ್ತು ಕುಟುಂಬ ಕಲ್ಯಾಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳು, ಯಾದಗಿರಿ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರಿ/245/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.ಎ/2024-25

ನಗರಸಭೆ
ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ
ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಜಿ ಮತ್ತು ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ, ದಸ್ತಾವೇಜಿನಲ್ಲಿ **ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ನಸಚಿ/ತಾಶಾ/ಸಿಆರ್/98/2024-25 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10.10.2024** ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೆಟಿಪಿಪಿ 2000 ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿಸಿರುವ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಷರತ್ತುಗಳಿಗೆ ಒಳಪಟ್ಟು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುತ್ತಾರೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. **DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT30850. DMA/2024-25/OW/WORKINDENT30851.** ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು **ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 24.10.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 17:00 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.10.2024 ರಂದು ಸಂಜೆ 17:05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ,** ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.10.2024 ರಂದು ಸಮಯ ಸಂಜೆ 17:05 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು.** ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:243/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024-25

Deputy Director & Ex-Officio Samagra Shikshana Karantaka
Kolara District, Kolara

No: SSK/KGBV/Food & Out Source E-Tender/2024-25 Date:14.10.2024

Publication of E-Tender

Regarding subject and reference, short term E-Tender has been invited by the agencies for supply of food to 3 KGBV schools and 3 girls hostels in Kolar district under Comprehensive Education Campaign scheme for the year 2024-25 and to provide part-time staff services to the said schools on outsourcing basis, for more information **http://kppp.karanatka.gov.in** can be viewed.

Sl. No.	Activities	Last Date for E-Tender application	Website
1	3 KGBV & 3 Girls Hostel E-Tender for supply of food and part-time staffing services to girls boarding schools on outsourcing basis.	Date: 28.10.2024 upto 4:00 P.M	http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Deputy Director & Ex-Officio Samagra Shikshana Karantaka
Kolara District, Kolara
DIPR/KOLAR/RO:288/KSMCA/2024-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, BBMP Road, Yelahanka Division, BBMP, Bangalore - 560 064.

No. : BBMP/EE/PR/10/2024-25 Date: 21.10.2024

E-AUCTION NOTICE

E-Auction of the shops constructed in east side of Hoysala Stadium, Ward No. 4, Yelahanka Satellite Town (Ground Floor)

Sl. No.	Shop No.	Measurement (in Mtrs)	Area (Sq.mtrs)	Boundaries			
				East	West	North	South
1	2	3.8x3.45	13.11	Road	Stadium	Shop No.03	Shop No. 01

1) Last date for Registration : **22.10.2024** and for participating in E-Auction: **04.11.2024.** **2)** Commencing of bidding :**05.11.2024 at 10.00 a.m.** 3) Last date for Closing of E-Auction: **05.11.2024 at 4.00 p.m.**

The Opening Bid Amount: Rs. 6635/- per month

The terms and conditions and other details can be obtained from the Office of the Executive Engineer, Yelahank Division, Mobile No. 9620673768.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Yelahanka Division

A BG-BGE

‘Translating Kuvempu is not just a personal choice, but a culturally significant move’

Vanamala Viswanatha, whose translation of Kuvempu’s *Malegalalli Madumagalu* was released last week, says that Kannada’s rich crop of works need to be read beyond the State’s borders

INTERVIEW

Vanamala Viswanatha

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Vanamala Viswanatha’s English translation of Kuppalli Venkatappa Puttappa’s (Kuvempu) magnum opus *Malegalalli Madumagalu* is a significant cultural milestone. The translation, released in Bengaluru last weekend, is among the many by the scholar, teacher and translator Vanamala, who has for long championed voices of Kannada literature and sought to bridge the gap between regional and global readerships.

In this interview with *The Hindu*, Vanamala delves into why *Malegalalli Madumagalu* deserves recognition beyond Karnataka’s borders, the complexities of translating a text steeped in the cultural and linguistic nuances of the Malnad region, and how her broader work in translation continues to highlight the richness of Kannada’s literary heritage. She also discusses the evolving role of translators in India, acknowledging the growing visibility and recognition they now receive.

Why did you decide to translate *Malegalalli Madumagalu*?

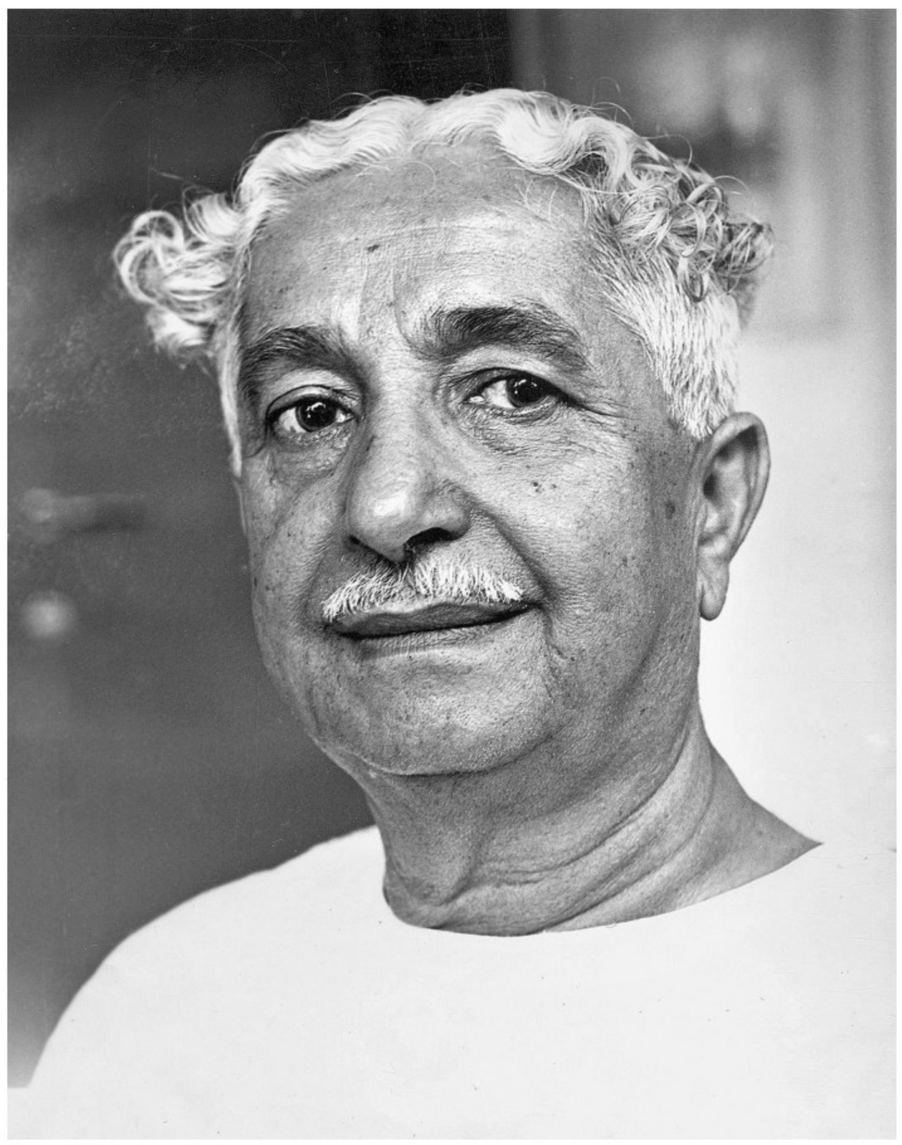
Kuvempu has not received much attention outside Karnataka though he deserves it. Translating his work is not just a personal choice, because it is a culturally significant move... When I started thinking about Kuvempu’s work, I realised that only his first novel *Kanuru Heggadati* from the year 1936, was translated and published in English sometime in the 2000s by Ramchandra Sharma. But *Malegalalli Madumagalu* was not translated. There were rumors that another translator was going to publish a translation of it, but that rumour lasted for five years, and nothing came out of it. So, I decided to give it a try. I re-read it, it had so many fascinating characters. What caught my attention were the stunning women characters in this novel, they appealed to me a great deal. I started translating excerpts from it, and eventually translated the entire novel.

However, as we were wrapping up the translation, a translation of the book was released by Rashtrakavi Kuvempu Pratishtana, translated by Dr. K.M. Srinivasa Gowda and G.K. Srikanata Murthy. Our publishers Penguin said that it was alright, and all classics have many different translated versions, and it was not a problem. We approached Pratishtana also, and they said it was not an issue and asked me to go ahead. In fact they helped me get copy rights.

What are the specific challenges you faced in translating a text set in late 19th and early 20th century, both in terms of language and ideas?

Malegalalli Madumagalu is very much a regional novel. It is set in the Malnad area, therefore it has the geography, culture, caste and dialect of the region.

Translating a book from a regional language to English, which will not have any of these flavours was a big challenge. There are three kinds of registers that the text employs, one is the dialogues among characters, second the narrative and third the reflection of the larger significance of that moment, that particular action and more. Kuvempu brings in his readings of Vedanta, Ramakrishna Paramahamsa, Shankara, Basavanna, psychology, sociology and more. He was a very widely read man, he brings in all that knowledge to understand that present moment in a character’s life.



Kuppalli Venkatappa Puttappa

Those reflective parts were very easy to translate. But dialogues were challenging, they were set in a very hierarchical society. When one addresses another, it is never without some kind of word that indicates a relationship. For example, when a wife addresses a husband in Kannada she says “neevu“ but bringing the same in English is not easy, or when a servant is addressing his employer, we can not say “master” or “my lord”. Such things work in novels that originate in England, not in the Indian context.

> There are many translators who translate from English to Kannada, but very few translating from Kannada to English.
> VANAMALA VISWANATHA

You have translated texts from various times in history, ranging from Harihara from 13th century to modern writers like Sara Aboobacker. How does the language of translation change with the text and the time to which it belongs? Are classical texts way too harder to bring to English?

High classical registers are easy to translate because you can use Latinate expressions and register of English is very accommodating. For example, parts of Raghavanka’s *Harishchandra Kavya*, where the king is speaking, those parts are easier. But when I translated Sara Aboobacker’s work, it was a mixture of three languages, and a story set in Kasargod which is a border town of Kerala and Karnataka. Sara’s mother tongue was Malayalam, she wrote in Kannada, and since it was the story of a Muslim family, there were religious terms in Urdu or Persian. I wanted to retain the multilingual location of the text and decided to keep it that way. The attempt is to highlight the heterogeneity rather than try and make a smooth translation where everybody speaks alike.

What draws you to translation specifically, considering that you are primarily a teacher of English language and literature?

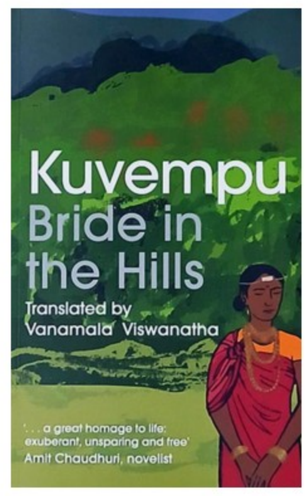
It has been a conscious decision to translate works. There are many translators who translate from English to Kannada, but very few translating from Kannada to English. I felt that I had a role there to play. I have a great affinity to Kannada though I have been teaching English for professional commitments. I am familiar with the terrain of Kannada and therefore I feel this is a culture, a language that has really nourished me. I need to payback, and when I think in what way I can do that best, it is translation of Kannada works to English.

What kind of books and writers do you think need to be translated from Kannada to English and vice versa?

Vanamala Viswanatha

I think Kannada has had a very rich crop of writing over hundreds of years. There is a need for translating the classical - pre-modern writing. Pampa, for instance, who is our Aadi Kavi... his works have not yet been translated to English.

Kumara Vyasa is being done now, and I translated Raghavanka’s works. There is a whole body of pre-modern writing that needs to be translated and be made known to the world. Modern writing also needs to be translated.



I feel each region has its own character, and it is very important to showcase it. The whole trend of translating has picked up, but Kannada texts also need to be translated to other neighbouring and Indian languages too.

How do you view the translation scene between Indian languages? Is enough happening?

In a country like India, we are living and breathing translations and a lot is happening. We are living in a context of translation. It is so natural, like air. It is shaping us all the time. The accident of my birth in a Tamil-speaking home but in a Kannada dominant area, the accident of me becoming an English professor in a State that speaks Kannada... They have all come together in this one act of translation. Without one, you can not do the other.

Do you think the situation has improved now in terms of how much credit translators get?

As a child I remember reading Victor Hugo’s *Les Misérables*, as *Nonda Jeevi* in Kannada. It was one of those faint books where the wrapper had come off but was one of those books where I cried my eyes out. I read the book without ever realising that it was a translation, because there was no name of the translator. From being so invisible that it was nameless, names of translators came to be mentioned in the inner page which was not too long ago.

When I was working in the Centre of Translation, Sahitya Academy, I had to make a strong case to have the name of the translators on the cover page, this was sometime in 2002, even then it was a very small print.

But now it is more prominent, there are many more awards for translators, reviews avenues, literatures festivals etc.

Pink Wave initiative marks nine years of breast cancer awareness drive

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Gleneagles BGS Hospital recently celebrated the ninth anniversary of their initiative ‘Pink Wave’ with ‘Pink Up The Pace 2024’ run. The initiative was launched to commemorate Breast Cancer Awareness Month, also known as ‘Pink October.’

Through a series of events, including the Pink Ride cyclothons and Pink Up the Pace runs, Pink Wave has played an instrumental role in educating the public about breast cancer while providing support to patients and survivors, said a release.

Breast cancer remains one of the most pressing health concerns for women worldwide, with one in eight women at risk of developing the disease during their lifetime. The Pink Up the Pace run served as a powerful reminder of the importance of vigilance in detecting potential health threats, particularly for women aged 30 and above, said the release.

According to the release, the initiative encourages participants to prioritise regular breast self-examinations, screenings, and annual tests as part of their healthcare routine, reinforcing the message that early detection saves lives.

Chief guests releasing balloons during the ‘Pink Up the Pace 2024.’

Dr. Sindhu, Senior Consultant Surgical Oncologist at Gleneagles BGS Hospital, Bengaluru, emphasised, “Our mission is to empower women with knowledge, encouraging regular self-exams and screenings to safeguard their health. Awareness is key, and through initiatives like this, we are not only spreading information but potentially saving lives. Early detection remains crucial, so if any symptoms are present, seeking medical attention is essential—even if they could be caused by non-cancerous conditions.”

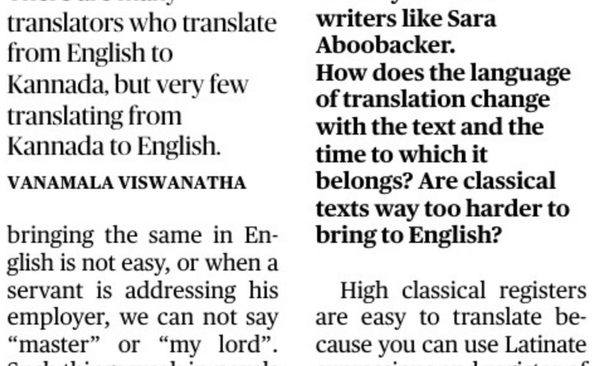
Teenager from Africa gets timely treatment for severe aplastic anaemia at city hospital

The boy was experiencing extreme weakness, severe fatigue, and repeated fever episodes, along with bleeding from his right ear over the past two months

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 16-year-old boy from Africa, who was suffering from severe aplastic anaemia, a condition where the bone marrow fails to produce enough blood cells, got a new lease of life at a private hospital in Bengaluru.

The patient underwent a life-saving haploidentical stem cell transplant, a procedure where stem cells from a partially matched family member are used to replace the damaged bone marrow, at Fortis Hospital Bannerghatta Road. Under the care of Niti Raizada, Senior Director of Medical and Hemato Oncology at the hospital, the boy gradually recovered and was discharged in three months in a stable condition.



The patient underwent a life-saving haploidentical stem cell transplant.

Extreme weakness

The boy, Michael, was experiencing extreme weakness, severe fatigue, and repeated fever episodes, along with bleeding from his right ear over the past two months. The medical facilities in Africa were inadequate for his treatment and hence his family sought help at Fortis hospital for advanced care.

Upon his admission, a comprehensive evaluation was carried out, leading to the diagnosis of aplastic anaemia. Given the severity of the condition, Dr. Raizada recommended a haploidentical stem cell transplant, as a fully matched donor (whether sibling or unrelated) could not be found. After a thorough search for a suitable donor, including HLA typing (tissue matching), Michael’s elder sister was identified as a haploidentical donor, making her a half- match for the transplant. Considering the urgency of his situation, this was the most viable and rapid course of action to save his life, the doctor said.

Nishit Ojha, Consultant - Hemato Oncology at the hospital said, “Michael’s case was extremely critical. Without timely intervention, his condition would have worsened rapidly, increasing the risk of life-threatening complications, such as severe bacterial infection like Klebsiella pneumoniae (a dangerous bacteria that is resistant to many antibiotics), that could have proven fatal. The urgency of finding a match and proceeding with the haploidentical stem cell transplant was crucial. This type of transplant is often the last hope for patients with severe aplastic anaemia.”

Post-transplant, the boy experienced some common complications, such as mucositis , cytokine release syndrome (a reaction where the body overreacts to the new stem cells), and febrile neutropenia (fever and low white blood cell count), which are part of the body’s response to the new stem cells. “However, he responded remarkably well, and after his neutrophil recovery (recovery of white blood cells that fights infection) on day 11, we began to see significant improvement,” said Tanushree Paul, Consultant - Paediatric Hemato Oncology.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1974

Display of Electronic Products

Bangalore, Oct. 22: The Visvesvaraya Industrial Trade Centre here will soon make available a separate floor for the display of electronic products.

Mr. M. A. Somashekar, Deputy Director of-Industries, and Commerce and Secretary of the Centre, told pressmen to-day there was scope for displaying more electronic components at the centre but for want of space it could not be done now. At the moment, the third floor of the centre displayed textiles and electronics items.

Outlining the objectives and activities of the centre, he said a two-day exhibition of products manufactured by Acunuc, an ancillary unit of the Hindustan Machine tools here, would be inaugurated at the centre to-morrow.

Mr. S. B. Patil, Managing partner of Acumac, said the unit was manufacturing machine tools accessories required not only by the HMT, but also other industries including some public sector undertakings. Mr. B. N. Gupta, a founder-member of the centre, said the centre was facilitating the Industrialists to build up the image for their products.

Plea to Start Co-op. Silk Bank

Bangalore, Oct 22: The President of the All-India Handloom Organisation, Mr. M. Somappa, has urged the State Government to start a co-operative silk bank to check serious fluctuations in the price of silk.

In a press statement, he said that the Government should supply raw silk to weavers at a fair price, as otherwise the upcountry people would capture the market, and local weavers would be thrown out of employment.

Sprouting a new pair of wings

After a five-year hiatus, the iconic lingerie brand reimagines its wings through global art collaborations, leading with Lekha Washington

Barry Rodgers

In the age of TikTok, cancel culture, and shifting social values, the definition of beauty is no longer confined to narrow ideals.

Brands that once dominated the fashion industry are now being held accountable for their lack of inclusivity. One such brand, Victoria's Secret, faced a reckoning in the late 2010s, when its glamorous fashion shows, often perceived as the pinnacle of high-fashion lingerie, became the centre of fierce public criticism.

For years, the annual Victoria's Secret Fashion Show was a cultural event, a dazzling spectacle featuring supermodels –dubbed "Angels" – strutting down elaborate runways, donning lingerie adorned with extravagant wings.

However, the show began to feel out of sync with the cultural moment, particularly as movements like body positivity and inclusivity gained momentum.

Public outrage peaked in 2018, following comments by the then chief marketing officer, Ed Razek, who dismissed the idea of including plus-size and transgender models in the show, sparking widespread backlash.

Comeback rooted in change

As consumer values shifted and ratings declined, Victoria's Secret's glossy image and outdated ideals were no longer celebrated but critiqued. In 2019, the iconic fashion show was cancelled after 23 years, marking the end of an era in the fashion world..

Fast-forward to 2024: after a five-year hiatus, the Victoria's Secret Fashion Show is making a return. Set to air on October 15 in the United States (October 16 in India), this revival marks more than just a reappearance – it signals a significant rebranding. The brand, once synonymous with unattainable beauty ideals, has undergone a transformation, embracing body diversity and inclusivity. This time, they are doing things differently. In a move to reclaim its cultural relevance, Victoria's Secret has partnered with artists worldwide to reimagine one of its most iconic elements: the wings.

These wings, once a symbol of the unattainable beauty perpetuated by the brand, are now being repurposed as a celebration of individuality and empowerment through art. In India, three murals have been created and unveiled across malls in major cities – Phoenix Palladium (Mumbai), Ambience Mall (Delhi), and Phoenix Mall of Asia (Bengaluru) – in the lead-up to the show.

These wing installations are not just artistic displays; they represent the brand's acknowledgment of past missteps and an effort to align itself with a more inclusive, authentic narrative. And at the heart of this creative project in India is Mumbai-based artist, Lekha Washington.

Art meets empowerment

Lekha, known for her innovative designs, brings her unique artistic vision to the forefront of this collaboration. Her iconic Red Dot Chair – a project that emphasises individuality and inner strength – serves as the inspiration for the wing murals. For Lekha, merging her artistic sensibilities with Victoria's Secret's evolving brand identity was a natural progression.

"The Red Dot Chair is deeply personal to me. It celebrates individuality, something we often overlook," Lekha explains. "Blending this concept with the Victoria's Secret wings allowed me to create an expression of inner strength and empowerment."

Her designs for the three wings draw from a range of materials, textures, and unexpected elements. One mural features wings made from fabric, designed to mimic feathers, ribbons, and beads, while another takes the form of unfurling ribbons, symbolising celebration. The final installation, perhaps the most striking, is a frozen splash of paint – crafted from silicone and brass – capturing movement and spontaneity in time. Each installation is distinct but unified by Lekha's artistic ethos: a commitment to individuality and the celebration of human strength.

A shift in creative direction

Collaborating with a brand as commercial and globally recognised as Victoria's Secret might seem like a challenge for an artist committed to preserving their creative integrity, but Lekha navigates this balance with ease.

"I don't undertake collaborations that don't resonate with my ethos," Lekha says. "Victoria's Secret allowed me the freedom to bring my vision to life. Each installation tells a story, not just about the brand, but about celebrating the individual who experiences it. It's about confidence, inner strength, and empowerment."

Her work in this project, while commercial, remains deeply personal. "Art is a self-fuelling passion. Each project I take on feeds into the next, and these wing installations are no different. They are an extension of my creative journey."

A brand in transition

As Victoria's Secret steps into a new chapter, it's clear the brand is aiming for more than just a return to the limelight. The partnership with artists like Lekha and the reimagining of their iconic wings symbolise a shift – one that's focussed on inclusivity, empowerment, and a more authentic portrayal of femininity. The brand is no longer just about selling lingerie; it is striving to create a narrative that resonates with modern consumers who prioritise diversity and individuality.

Flying high Lekha Washington (above) and her creations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Pushing the boundaries of cinema

Artist and filmmaker Koel Sen will lead an immersive workshop at Museum of Art and Photography (MAP) Bengaluru. Participants of the workshop can explore the intersection of new media, cinema, and generative art. The one-day session will delve into both historical and contemporary experiments with digital media, emphasising computational art in film.

Participants will learn how filmmakers and artists use film, video, and digital media to push the boundaries of moving images. The workshop will focus on personal and poetic filmmaking, using tools like computer software and hardware to create and deconstruct images, incorporating music and sound to enhance the creative process. Participants will also gain hands-on experience with generative art coding using Gibber, a browser-based app, as well as experience live demonstrations of audio-visual tools such as Resolume and MIDI controllers.

New media and generative art are transforming cinema by pushing the boundaries of traditional storytelling and visual representation. Filmmakers today experiment with algorithms, coding, and interactive technologies to create moving images that are not just viewed but actively shaped by viewers and technology. This intersection of art and technology has opened new avenues for personal expression, enabling artists to challenge conventional filmmaking through a fusion of original footage, found footage, and computer-generated visuals.

Attendees are encouraged to bring personal archives such as home videos and mobile footage to incorporate into their creative projects. A basic understanding of filmmaking and editing is recommended, and participants should bring their laptops equipped with software such as Adobe Premiere Pro or Da Vinci Resolve.

Koel, an alumnus of the Film & Television Institute of India and La Fémis, Paris, is known for challenging conventional filmmaking. Her work explores memory, personal archives, and marginalised histories.

The workshop will run from 10am to 4pm on October 26 at MAP Bengaluru. Registration is free but required, with limited seats available.

Concerts, awards and book releases

Ranjani Govind

From the time HS Sudhindra trained in percussion as a teenager, both his gurus, M Vasudev Rao and Srimushnam Raja Rao, were instrumental in making him expand his musical interests to include social service that would make a difference to music, musicians and society. Sudhindra recalls his teachers' incessant prompting that "his hands should beat for percussion, and his heart for philanthropy to bring in a melodious balance."

It has been 42 years since Sudhindra, principal and managing trustee of Suswaralaya, has been on stage as a performing mridangist, 25 years since he started Suswaralaya College of music where at any given point he has had 60 students being trained in vocal and instrumental music, and 20 years since he launched the Karnataka Directory of Musicians, which is regularly updated.

Sudhindra has also devised a unique medical assistance scheme for deserving musicians in distress. Suswaralaya has released 20 CDs and 20 books related to Carnatic music, and honours two musicians every year during their annual music festivals for their contributions.

Silver jubilee

This year, Suswaralaya's silver jubilee celebrations at the Indian Institute of World Culture will host 13 concerts, two lec-dems, a Laya Vinyasa by Suswaralaya students and a special Tala Vadhya Cutcheri from a 25-member percussion team. "The valedictory programme is on November 9 at Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira in Banashankari to felicitate guru Srimushnam Raja Rao for his contributions to the world of laya," says Sudhindra, a Ganakalasri and Vani Kala Nipuna awardee.

Mirror to music HS Sudhindra (below), Nalina Mohan and TV Ramprasadh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

This year, Suswaralaya's silver jubilee celebrations will take place from October 23 to 27, while the Suswaralaya Awards – Swaralaya Rathna for vocalist TV Ramaprasadh, and Swaralaya Shrunga for violinist Nalina Mohan – will be conferred during the valedictory function.

Directory release

During the inauguration on October 23, the 10th edition of Suswaralaya's *Directory of Musicians and Danseuses (Karnataka)* will be released by the president of the Bangalore Gayana Samaja MRV Prasad. "This time, the updated listings in the 10th edition will contain a total of 3,776 listings with photos of vocal and instrumental Carnatic and Hindustani musicians, apart from dancers and dance institutions in 65 different categories. This time, our listings also include music therapists as there has been a demand for this."

According to the Suswaralaya team, the all-inclusive book that takes three months to compile, aims to be a self-contained reference book of listings and contacts of music institutions, sabhas, music shops and libraries, magazines, scholars and critics, music and dance photographers, and more. "We also carry information on awards instituted by the government and other organisations, related to music in Karnataka. I am reaching out to more Hindustani musicians as part of this endeavour as they can be permanently listed as contacts of Karnataka musicians," says Sudhindra.

Other releases

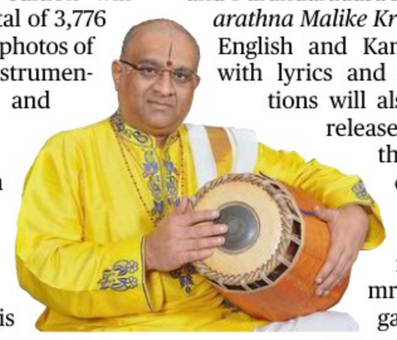
Books on Ugabhogadarpana in Kannada and English; and Purandaradasa's *Navarathna Malike Kritis* in English and Kannada with lyrics and notations will also be released on the occasion. "Guru mridanga vidwan M Vasudeva Rao, vocalist RK Padmanabha, art critic M Suryaprasad and vocalist and scholar TS Sathyavathi will be part of the inaugural programme," says Sudhindra.

The silver jubilee celebrations will also see the release of a video recording of 37 rarely heard *Dasa Sahitya Kritis* sung by the students of Suswaralaya. Set to tune by Sudhindra, they will also be would be available on YouTube. "The works of eight prominent dasas of Karnataka (or Avatara Purusharu) includes Purandaradasa, Vyasaraja, Vadiraja, Sripadaraja, Jagannathadasa, Kanakadasa, Vijayadasa and Gopaladasa," he says, adding, "Every year we plan to make recordings of such kritis found in books to help students and researchers."

Suswaralaya College not only functions as an institute where one can learn music, but is also where students can recieve the required grounding in a domain of their choice. "We help interested students reach out to institutions such as the Centre for Cultural Resource and Training (CCRT) for scholarships in furthering their learning in fine arts, and keep them informed on state government scholarships. We help them gain their grading at AIR and produce recordings to aid their careers," says Sudhindra.

The inaugural concert will see senior vocalist MS Sheela accompanied by Mysore Srikant on the violin, Ranjini Venkatesh on the mridanga and BS Arun Kumar on the morsing.

Suswaralaya College of Music's silver jubilee concert will take place from October 23 to 27 and on November 9 at the Indian Institute of World Culture and Sri Rama Lalitha Kala Mandira. Visit www.suswaralaya.org for details



CITYBEATS

Milestone One

OCTOBER 22

Loco Bear, an indoor activity hub, is celebrating its first anniversary by offering customers a discount for all its games such as Go-Karting and bowling. Customers arriving on Tuesday, will enjoy an an additional discount of 50% upon recharge.

The offers have been on since the beginning of October and going forward, Loco Bear plans on providing activities at "unbeatable prices".

On at Loco Bear, Jakkasandra Extension, Koramangala.

Gifting delight

ONGOING

Toscano has instroduced a Deepavali gift hamper for the season. Priced at ₹3199, these hampers are designed to give you the, "Toscano experience at your doorstep". Within the hamper, one will find a curated selection of gourmet items such as premium Italian pasta, peranzana olives, fruits, almond and raisin tea cake, cookies, chocolates rocks, scented candles and more.

Dial 91 7619407979 to place your order.

New challenger: BJP candidate Navya Haridas attending a roadshow at Kalpetta in Wayanad on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Nominees of LDF, NDA ramp up their Wayanad campaign

E.M. Manoj
KALPETTA

The campaigning for the byelection in the Wayanad Lok Sabha constituency is gaining momentum with candidates of various parties ramping up their outreach efforts.

Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate Satyan Mokeri commenced his campaigning three days ago, while the National Democratic Alliance's (NDA) Navya Haridas launched her campaign on Monday. Ms. Haridas, seen as the youth face of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the Malabar region, is a two-time representative of the party in the Kozhikode Corporation.

BJP roadshow

The BJP district leaders gave Ms. Haridas a welcome in Lakkidi. Later, she lead in a roadshow in which hundreds of party workers participated.

United Democratic Front (UDF) candidate Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is set to enter the fray on Wednesday. She will submit her nomination papers in the presence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Sonia Gandhi.

A roadshow featuring Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha and former MP from Wayanad, alongside Ms. Vadra, will begin from the vicinity of the new bus stand around 11 a.m. on Wednesday. She likely to spend nearly 10 days in the constituency.

Meanwhile, Mr. Mokeri has completed his first round of visits in the Nilambur and Wandoor Assembly constituencies in Malappuram. Its election convention for the Wayanad constituency is scheduled to commence on October 24 in Kalpetta, followed by Assembly segment conventions at Thiruvambadi on October 25, and at Mananthavady, Sultan Bathery, and Nilambur on October 27. Conventions will also take place in Kalpetta, Wandoor, and Ernad on October 28.

12 lakh ineligible BPL cards to be weeded out in Karnataka

'This is because a large number of families have not availed foodgrain under the PDS during the last six months and many have not received cash incentive under the Direct Benefit Transfer'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Food and Civil Supplies K.H. Muniyappa on Monday said close to 12 lakh ineligible Below Poverty Line (BPL) ration cards would be weeded out in the State as a large number of families have not availed foodgrain under the public distribution system (PDS) during the last six months and many have not received cash incentive under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) during the last one year.

Many BPL cards have been issued to income tax and goods and services tax paying individuals/families and their cards too would be removed, he said. Lakhs of BPL cards have been issued to families whose annual income is more than ₹1.2 lakh, which is the threshold for BPL families.

K.H. Muniyappa

₹8,433.11 crore cash had been disbursed to eligible BPL cardholders under the DBT from July 2023 to July 2024

Many government employees have also obtained BPL cards. Already, he said 3.63 lakh BPL cards have been weeded out from the BPL list.

Money disbursed

Speaking to reporters, Mr. Muniyappa said ₹8,433.11 crore cash had been disbursed to eligible BPL cardholders under the DBT from July 2023 to July 2024. The cash of ₹170 per member was given in lieu of 5 kg rice under the Anna Bhagya scheme.

The department has received 1.79 lakh new applications seeking ration cards during the last two years and cards would be issued after scrutinising applications.

Legislation to contain food wastage

Karnataka has proposed to introduce a new legislation to contain the wastage of food in hotels, marriages and other functions, said Mr. Muniyappa. As per the estimate, close to ₹90,000 crore-worth food was being wasted annually India, he said.

Kerala HC asks senior officials to appear in church contempt case

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Kerala High Court on Monday ordered the Chief Secretary, Director-General of Police (DGP), and the District Collectors of Ernakulam and Palakkad to appear in person before it on November 8 for framing of contempt of court charges against them for not complying with the court directive to take possession of six churches under the control of the Jacobite faction in the Malankara Church.

Justice V.G. Arun passed the order when the contempt of court petitions filed by vicars of the Orthodox faction came up for hearing. The court observed that "as charges have to be framed, respondents shall personally be present before the court on November 8, 2024".

In SC, Kerala Police oppose bail to actor Siddique in rape case

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Kerala Police have filed a report in the Supreme Court urging for custodial interrogation of Malayalam actor Siddique in a sexual assault case, saying it is "essential to expose his lie of righteousness before he goes down in history as a hero".

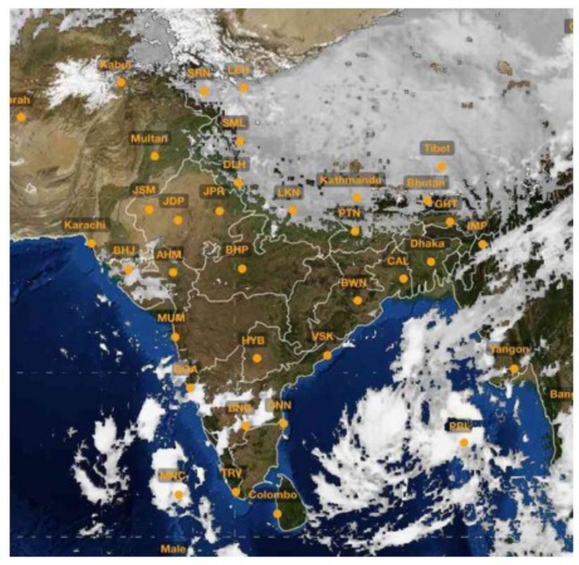
The police said there is a "stockpile of evidence" against Mr. Siddique, who was granted anticipatory bail in September.

Opposing regular bail to Mr. Siddique, the police said any grant of leeway to the actor would be a blow to the policy of zero tolerance towards crime against women and children.

The police said Siddique had a lookout notice issued against him on September 25.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Kerala, Mahe and Karnataka. Thunderstorm accompanied with lightning likely at isolated places over Gujarat, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Marathwada, Konkan & Goa, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal and Rayalaseema

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.0	23.2	Kozhikode	—	32.5	26.4
Ahmedabad	2	34.6	23.5	Kurnool	13	33.5	23.4
Aizawl	—	32.6	22.6	Lucknow	—	35.1	21.9
Allahabad	—	35.6	21.6	Madurai	—	32.2	25.1
Bengaluru	62	28.4	20.7	Mangaluru	—	31.7	24.4
Bhopal	—	32.8	20.0	Mumbai	10	34.4	23.6
Bhubaneswar	—	33.2	24.0	Mysuru	—	28.0	20.0
Chandigarh	—	32.8	18.7	New Delhi	—	34.7	20.4
Chennai	2	34.0	26.3	Patna	—	32.8	25.5
Coimbatore	7	30.2	23.3	Port Blair	12	29.5	23.8
Dehradun	—	30.3	16.6	Puducherry	—	33.4	26.0
Gangtok	—	20.2	12.5	Pune	8	30.6	21.2
Goa	—	31.0	26.0	Raipur	—	32.9	24.6
Guwahati	—	32.6	22.1	Ranchi	0.4	28.8	21.2
Hubballi	—	28.0	22.0	Shillong	—	23.4	14.8
Hyderabad	—	31.6	23.1	Shimla	—	24.4	13.8
Imphal	—	30.1	17.7	Srinagar	—	26.2	7.1
Jaipur	—	35.6	22.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.0	25.2
Kochi	19	31.0	24.4	Tiruchi	—	32.1	26.0
Kohima	—	22.6	11.0	Vijayawada	—	33.3	25.2
Kolkata	—	31.4	25.0	Visakhapatnam	—	33.4	26.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.12	..15	.32	...100	74	
Bengaluru	...2	..31	.47	52	55	
Chennai	...5	..12	.24	77	90	
Delhi	.30	105	.93	...349	...356	
Hyderabad	...8	..20	.40	50	...135	
Kolkata	...6	..50	.65	...183	...134	
Lucknow	.15	6	.16	...254	...210	
Mumbai	...2	..50	.33	34	61	
Pune	...6	106	107	56	63	
Visakhapatnam	.10	..45	.34	50	62	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 310 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Madurai, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 22

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

TENDER NOTICE

Tender Notice Number: SSSCT/Proc/24-25/E&P/026, Dated: 21-Oct-24

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam Invites Tenders For **Civil Finishing Works of Dormitories Cum Rooms Block at Prasanthi Nilayam.**

Tender Document Can Be Downloaded From https://tenders.sssct.org/Civil_finishing_works_at_Dormitories_Blocks_PSN.pdf

Last Date for Submission of Tender is 04-Nov-2024

SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST, PRASANTHI NILAYAM

KARNATAKA HOUSING BOARD

3rd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Housing Board invite Appointment of Project Management Consultant (PMC) through Karnataka public procurement portal for below project.
Last date for submission of bid: **04.11.2024 upto 4.00 p.m.**

Sl. No.	Name of Work
1.	**Development of sites and services in Sy. No.157 of Narasapura Village & Sy. No.303/3 of Betageri Village, Kasaba Hobli, Gadag Taluk & District.** No: KHB/CE/PMC/Gadag/S&S/NIT No.KHB/2024-25/SE0170 Date: 19.10.2024.

For further information, contact below mentioned office address: **Executive Engineer, Karnataka Housing Board, Cauvery Bhavan, Bengaluru, Telephone No.080-22273511 / 080-22100077 web site: https://kppp. karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Karnataka Housing Board, Bengaluru.

DIPR/CP/AAPL/RO2651/24-25

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, East Zone, 17th Floor, Mayo hall Building, MG Road, Bengaluru

No.: SADH/TENDER/08/2024-25 **Date: 21.10.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal Only)

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East Zone), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to implement in accordance with KTPP Rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person / Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Maintenance of Parks. **(Standard tender document: KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4).**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Beautification, Landscape Development, Water Facility and other civil works in Hebbala Assembly Constituency in East Zone. **Amount (In Rupees):** 1,05,92,697/-, **EMD (In Rupees.):** 1,58,850/-.

Calendar of Events: (1) The tender documents may be downloaded from Government of Karnataka e-procurement website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **25.10.2024. (2)** Pre bid meeting: **30.10.2024** at **11:30 a.m. (3)** Tender Closing date: **04.11.2024** at **4:30 p.m. (4)** Technical bid opening date: **06.11.2024** at **4:30 p.m. (5)** Financial bid opening date: **After approval of Technical bid.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, East Zone, BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, 2nd Floor, Shakthi Soudha, 13th Cross Road, 4th B Main Road, M.C. Layout, Vijayanagara, Bengaluru - 560040.

No: EE(GRN)/TN/GL-08/2024-25 **Date: 21-10-2024**

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System) (Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the Executive Engineer, Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP, Bengaluru from the registered Contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES or any State Government Organizations for the works detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work (Two Cover Works)
	Reserved for SC Category
1	Providing Pothole Filling in Ward No. 135, 136, 137 & 138 in Govindarajanagara Sub Division. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 60.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 60,000/-**
2	Providing Pothole Filling in Ward No. 139, 140, 141, 142 & 143 in Chandralayout Sub Division. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 75.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 75,000/-**
	Reserved for ST Category
3	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath Work in Ward No. 140, Maruthi Mandira. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 55,000/-**
	General Category
	Maintenance of Roads, Drains and Footpath Work in below Wards.
4	Ward No. 135, Dr. Rajkumar Agraharadasarahalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
5	Ward No. 136, Govindarajanagara. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
6	Ward No. 137, Marenahalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
7	Ward No. 138, Kaveripura. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
8	Ward No. 139, Moodalapalya. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
9	Ward No. 141, Nagarabhavi. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
10	Ward No. 142, Chandralayout. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**
11	Ward No. 143, Nayandhalli. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 55.00, EMD Amount (in Rs.): 1,10,000/-**

Calendar of Events: 1) The tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in 2)** Pre Bid Meeting will be held on **28-10-2024 at 16.00 Hours. 3)** Last Date for Uploading the Filled Proposals is **04-11-2024 upto 16.00 Hours. 4)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **06-11-2024 after 10.30 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **After approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Govindarajanagara Division, BBMP.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CEE/T&P/SEC/AEEC/IBP-2/2024-25/4743-52 **Date: 21.10.2024**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following services.

Name of the Work
Fit-out & furnishing with other allied services for KPTCL Office Complex [Indhana Bhavana] near Ananda Rao Circle, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-09. **Approx. value of work in Rs.49,44,81,730.15/- (excluding GST)**

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendereing process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **25.10.2024 at 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of bids is **28.11.2024 at 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be obtained from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums will be notified in KPP Portal before the last date of submission of the bids.

Sd/- **Chief Engineer, Electricity, Tendering & Procurement, KPTCL, III Floor, Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru – 560 009. Tel : 080 22274744.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, East Zone, 17th Floor, Mayohall Building, M.G. Road, Bangalore.

No.SADH/TENDER/07/2024-25 **Date:21.10.2024**

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) **(Two Cover System)**

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, East Zone, invites tenders from eligible and experienced person / Agencies / Firms registered in Labour Department for providing the following works detailed in the table below:

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1.	Beautification, Landscape development, water facility and other civil works in Shivajinagara Assembly Constituency in East Zone. Estimated Cost : **Rs. 1,05,89,301.84** EMD : **Rs. 1,58,800/-** Stipulated period of Completion: **6 Months.**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GoK KPP portal from **25.10.2024 onwards. 2)** Pre-bid Meeting: **30.10.2024 at 11.30 a.m. 3)** Last date for submission of tenders: **04.11.2024 upto 4.30 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical Bids: **06.11.2024 at 4.30 p.m. 5)** Opening of Financial Bids: **After approval of Technical bid.** Further details can be accessed from GoK KPP Portal : **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East Zone)

ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ನಂ:ದಾಮಪಾ:ಕಾಅ3:ಇ.ಟೆಂಡರ್:10:2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.10.2024

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ)

2024–25 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ಮೂಲ ನಿಧಿ (ನಿರ್ಬಂಧಿತ ಅನುದಾನ–ಕುಡಿಯುವ ನೀರು) ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್– 04 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ, 2024–25ನೇ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್–02 & ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ 01 ಸಂಖ್ಯೆಯ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಡಬಲ್ ಕವರ್ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು(ವಿದ್ಯುತ್/ನೀರುಸರಬರಾಜು) ರವರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿದ್ದು, ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ ಏಜನ್ಸಿದಾರರು/ ಸರಬರಾಜುದಾರರು ಕೆಪಿಪಿಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ kppp.karnataka.gov.in ನಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಾಗಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ಸಮಯದಲ್ಲಿ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವಿದ್ಯುತ್ ಶಾಖೆಗೆ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08192 234444 ರಿಂದ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸೂಚನೆ : 1) ಈ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಮುಂದೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ದಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಇದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತವು ಅಂತಿಮವಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. 2) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದೇ ಬದಲಾವಣೆ ಅದಲ್ಲಿ ಆ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಗಮನಿಸುವುದು ಹಾಗೂ ಯಾವುದೇ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಹೊರಡಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 18.10.2024, ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 25.10.2024 ಸಮಯ 17.00 ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 28.10.2024 .ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 01.11.2024 ಸಮಯ: 17.00 ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 04.11.2024 ಸಮಯ 17.00 ಪೂರ್ಣಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ವೇಳೆ : 05.11.2024 .ಸಮಯ : 11.00 ನಂತರ

ವಾಸಾಇ/ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ/419/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2024–25

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ

ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ ನಿಯಮಿತ

(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಒಂದು ಉದ್ಯಮ)
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ನಂ.7,
ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಕಾವೇರಿ ನೀರಾವರಿ ನಿಗಮ, (ನಿ),
ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ, ದೂ:08234–200058 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ 08234–286019
e-mail: eeno7nagamangala@gmail.com

ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್
ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 03/2024–25 ದಿನಾಂಕ:16.10.2024.
(ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆರೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ)

ರಸ್ತೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕೆರೆ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಣಿಯಾಗಿರುವ 2ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡನ್ನು (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಟ್ಟು 2 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಹಾಗೂ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಠೇವಣಿಯನ್ನು ಆನ್‌ಲೈನ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **22.10.2024** ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ **01.11.2024 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 16.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** Pre-bid Meeting ದಿನಾಂಕ **25.10.2024** ರಿಂದ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್ ರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಗೊರೂರು, ಹಾಸನ ಇಲ್ಲಿ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **12.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ **04.11.2024 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗಳು.** ನಂತರ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಅರ್ಹತೆ ಪಡೆದ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **07.11.2024 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಘಂಟೆಗೆ.** ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ.379.24 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 209.68 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳು** ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ, 5,69,000.00/– ಗಳು** ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ, 3,15,000.00/–** ಗಳಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂ ಬೆಲೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಲಮಿತಿ ಮುಂತಾದ ಇತರೆ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಸದರಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು **https//kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಲಭ್ಯವಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/–ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್,
ನಂ.7, ಹೇಮಾವತಿ ಎಡದಂಡೆ ನಾಲಾ ವಿಭಾಗ, ನಾಗಮಂಗಲ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ಸನಿ–ಮಂ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿ&ಎ/383/2024–25

Culture and society

Court verdict on citizenship law for Assam helps avoid fresh problems

In upholding Section 6A of the Citizenship Act, a provision introduced in 1985 to give effect to the core feature of the Assam Accord, the Supreme Court of India has helped preserve the existing legal regime for determining citizenship and identification of foreigners in Assam. Striking it down would have had the undesirable consequence of turning the clock back on the process laid down in statutory provisions and rules for the purpose. In its 4:1 decision, the Court has rightly seen the provision in the light of historical developments. While on one hand, Section 6A conferred deemed citizenship on all those who entered Assam from areas in erstwhile East Pakistan before January 1, 1966, it created, on the other, a system of registration for those who immigrated from that day to March 25, 1971, the day Pakistan began Operation Searchlight, a military drive to suppress the Bengali nationalist movement. The latter category of people had to be ordinarily residing in Assam and declared to be a foreigner by a tribunal before they could apply for registration as citizens. However, they would be ineligible to be on the electoral rolls for 10 years from the date of detection. Section 6A, as the Chief Justice of India, D.Y. Chandrachud, says in his concurring opinion, was aimed at finding a middle ground between a humanitarian approach towards the immigrant population in Assam and ensuring that large-scale immigration does not result in the loss of the cultural, economic and political rights of the Assam people.

The majority has rejected the notion that the provision is unconstitutional on the ground that it treats Assam differentially from the rest of the country. It has noted that the citizenship provisions in the Constitution referred to 'citizenship at the commencement of the Constitution' and Parliament was not deprived of the power to introduce provisions on citizenship for a different category of people from a different date. In his main opinion, speaking for himself and two other judges, Justice Surya Kant has acknowledged the petitioners' "demographic anxiety", but did not believe that the idea of fraternity in the Constitution was threatened by a mere change in demography. It is not a misplaced fear when he says accepting the argument that demographic change could lead to an erosion of the cultural rights of a section of society may open the floodgates for similar challenges to undermine inter-State migration in the guise of protecting indigenous culture. At a time when the exercise to finalise a National Register of Citizens for Assam is in limbo – 19 lakh people have been identified as non-citizens, but there have been no further developments – any decision invalidating Section 6A would have created fresh complications.

Allow for deliberation

Lack of a legislature, regional autonomy in Ladakh have led to current protests

When decisions are taken for constituents in a province without their explicit consent or their deliberation, there could be a blowback even if the constituents initially welcomed the changes with hope. Such is the case with the abrogation of Jammu and Kashmir's special status and its bifurcation into two Union Territories (UT), which includes the erstwhile constituent of Ladakh. While the discontent in the Kashmir Valley with both decisions is well documented, a Lokniti survey points to four-tenths of Jammu residents opposing the abrogation of special status and a larger majority seeking restoration of statehood. When Ladakh was hived off into a UT from the then unified State, the government justified this as reflecting a demand from residents of Ladakh – Leh in particular – who were concerned about the predominance of the Kashmir Valley and Jammu in its erstwhile legislature. Yet, five years on, the protests in Ladakh with the demand for statehood or the province's inclusion in the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution – which has provisions regarding administration of tribal areas in some North-Eastern States – confirm the unpopularity of the decisions made by the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government. While Ladakh is host to two Autonomous Hill Councils in Leh and Kargil, the absence of an empowered legislature in the UT, which has meant little say for local governance in comparison to a larger writ for New Delhi, has given rise to these protests. The agitations, the one led by social activist Sonam Wangchuk in particular, with echoes in New Delhi, raise the question whether the Union government could have avoided the Machiavellian route of one-upmanship seen in 2019, which led to the current situation.

A larger question relates to how Ladakh has been viewed by New Delhi ever since 2019. Following Chinese incursions across the Line of Actual Control and recurring tensions in the region, Ladakh has largely been seen through a security lens. Local concerns related to livelihoods, environmental issues such as water scarcity, waste management and pollution and civic issues such as access to land for pastoral communities remain relatively unaddressed in the administrative scheme. The absence of a legislature in the newly formed UT is a key reason why residents seem agitated about the lack of deliberation or avenues to register their concerns. It goes without saying that the Union Government must find a way to meet the legitimate demands of Ladakh and grant it statehood. More importantly, the discontent also highlights the importance of preserving India's polished system of "asymmetric federalism" that has purposefully addressed grievances.

An approaching milestone in constitutional governance

C. Raj Kumar

the Vice Chancellor of O.P. Jindal Global University

November 26 this year will mark the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the adoption of the Constitution of India. It is a milestone that needs to be celebrated by every stakeholder of Indian democracy. Constitutional governance in India is not merely a facet of the laws, rules and regulations that govern the establishment and the evolution of democratic institutions. It is also about permeating a deep sense of constitutional culture that has captured the collective consciousness of Indians across different cultures, faiths and beliefs.

Respect for institutions, power transition

As we move towards celebrating this Constitution Day, it is an opportune time to identify the core constitutional values that have shaped the constitutional culture of India. These five values have also withstood the test of time.

First, people's respect for democratic institutions. The Constitution of India was adopted on November 26, 1949, a time when life expectancy in India was around 32 years. Today, it has progressed to around 70 years. This extraordinary improvement in the standards of living and the quality of life has contributed in a significant manner for the ordinary Indian to respect the role and the contribution of democratic institutions. The social and economic development of India is an example of the progressive implementation of public policy over the last several decades. There is a need for a nuanced understanding on why Indians continue to participate in such large and significant numbers in every election – local, State or national – notwithstanding the fact that they expect a better performance from their representatives. Since the first elections in 1951-52, we have consistently witnessed nearly 60% of Indians participating in elections including in the 2024 general election where there was a a 65.79% voter turnout. The respect for democracy and faith in democratic institutions in India is a core constitutional value that has withstood the test of time.

Second, the smooth transition of elected governments. The seven decades have seen numerous elections across States and at the national level. India has seen elected representatives representing different political parties, with varying degrees of strength and presence, within a State and/or at a pan-India level. We have also seen political leaders of different ideological persuasions winning elections and holding positions of power and responsibility in the States and at the Centre. But if there is one thing that is unique and distinctive about India's democratic traditions, it is the deep commitment every political party attaches to the idea of smooth transitions of power at the end of elections. While elections are fought with high-voltage campaigns and at times, even divisive narratives, the electoral results are almost always a humbling experience – it is the people of India who win each election without any exception. The Indian electorate has, time and again, demonstrated to the world that its understanding of problems and challenges will shape our decisions relating to elections. The people of India have imbibed this core constitutional value of participating in elections and enabling the smooth transition of power from one government to the other.

India has every reason to celebrate 75 years of constitutional governance

Upholding rights

Third, protection of rights and freedoms through courts. The Constitution is very forthright in recognising the highest degree of importance being attached to the fundamental rights and the courts, which are institutions created under the Constitution to protect the rights of people. It is even more remarkable that the framers of the Constitution were people associated with the freedom movement and responsible for building the foundations of the Indian Republic. They struggled to fight against colonialism to help achieve India's freedom. While drafting the provisions relating to fundamental rights, the members of the Constituent Assembly were mindful of the power of the mighty state and its instrumentalities. They could have tilted towards the idea of a benevolent state, especially when almost the entire first Cabinet had people who were part of the freedom movement. However, their deep scepticism of the state apparatus and the fervent commitment towards protecting individual rights and freedoms reflected a far-sighted vision on their part. This vision of recognising the role of the state, while being conscious of the fact that rights and freedoms are paramount, is a core constitutional value that has only been strengthened over the years.

Fourth, federalism as a facet of constitutional governance. The framers of the Constitution were mindful of the extraordinary diversity of the country, including its linguistic diversity and other forms of pluralism deeply embedded in our civic and political culture. The history and the tradition of every State of India also meant that they were conscious of protecting the unique identity, tradition and culture of the States and the people while forging a collective national identity. They created different forms of autonomy and special privileges for different States keeping in mind their unique histories and cultures. To efficaciously ameliorate the disparities that are prevalent among the people in certain regions of the nation, the Indian Constitution delineates a paradigm of special dispensations, furthering the agenda of equity and inclusivity.

Over the last seven decades, the idea of federalism has further deepened at least at two levels: first, the rise of State-level political parties across India and their own contribution to the development of national political consciousness. This has, on several occasions, led to strong State parties contributing to the development of coalition governments in the States and at the Centre. Second, the idea of federalism has also led to the passing of the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments, which led to the establishment of panchayati raj institutions and *nagarpalikas*.

The part played by media, civil society

Fifth, the role of the media and civil society in instilling faith in democracy. Much has been said and written about the Indian media. The Indian media is a diverse and heterogeneous institution with views and perspectives that are generated across India in different languages. Further, the transition of print media to broadcast and further innovations in media and technology have democratised access to information and indeed the role of media. While there are fundamental challenges relating to the economic model of governance of media institutions, it is fair to say that media and civil society have contributed to the instilling of faith in Indian democracy. While we need to be critical of the challenges of the autonomy and the independence of media, it is equally important to recognise the values of transparency that have been part of the media culture. In the cacophony of an information explosion through various forms of media and the medium of communication, the Indian electorate has been enlightened to develop an informed degree of understanding of the role of the media and civil society.

We have every reason to celebrate 75 years of constitutional governance.

After Independence, the last British commander in chief of the Indian Army, General Claude Auchinleck had observed, "The Sikhs may try to set up a separate regime. I think they probably will and that will be only a start of a general decentralization and break-up of the idea that India is a country, whereas it is a subcontinent as varied as Europe. The Punjabi is as different from a Madrassi as a Scot is from an Italian. The British tried to consolidate it but achieved nothing permanent. No one can make a nation out of a continent of many nations."

We proved many people wrong in not only forging a national identity of a nation that is built on constitutional ideals but we have also made the Constitution an instrument of galvanising social conscience and political consciousness.

The case for a nature restoration law in India

Tuhin A. Sinha

National Spokesperson, Bharatiya Janata Party

Kaviraj Singh

Founder and Managing Director, Earthood

The degradation of natural ecosystems is an urgent global issue, and India, with its vast geographical and ecological diversity, is no exception. With almost 30% of its total geographical area having land degradation, the need for India to adopt a comprehensive nature restoration law is more acute. The Nature Restoration Law (NRL), which was enacted by the European Union (EU), is an inspiring model from which India can draw points to tackle its growing environmental crises.

The NRL, adopted by the EU's Environmental Council on June 17, 2024, is a groundbreaking piece of legislation that aims to restore the health of Europe's ecosystems.

The regulation was endorsed by a majority of EU member-states, representing 66.07% of the EU population, marking a milestone in global environmental governance. The law mandates that at least 20% of the EU's land and sea areas must be restored by 2030, with the goal of having all ecosystems in need of restoration fully restored by 2050.

The NRL is part of the EU's Biodiversity Strategy for 2030 and the European Green Deal, and it seeks to reverse the alarming trend of biodiversity loss as over 80% of Europe's habitats are in poor condition. It focuses on a broad range of ecosystems, from forests and agricultural lands to rivers and urban spaces, implementing specific measures such as the restoration of 25,000 kilometres of rivers into free-flowing rivers and the planting of three billion additional trees by 2030.

The environmental, economic case for India

India is grappling with similar, if not more severe, environmental challenges. According to the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)'s Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas, nearly 97.85 million hectares (29.7%) of India's total geographical area underwent land degradation in 2018-19, a sharp increase from 94.53 million hectares in 2003-05. Desertification, in particular, is a growing concern, with 83.69 million hectares affected in 2018-19. The report highlights that land degradation is prevalent in key States such as Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan, which together form 23.79% of India's desertified land area.

The law enacted by the European Union recently is a model worth following

India has already made considerable strides in addressing these issues through the successful implementation of the Green India Mission, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (which is the second-largest watershed programme in the world) and the National Afforestation Programme. However, the scale of the problem demands a more comprehensive approach. Just as the EU's NRL sets legally binding targets for ecosystem restoration, India needs such a nature restoration law that mandates the restoration of its degraded landscapes, ensuring the long-term sustainability of its ecosystems.

What a law in India could look like

A Nature Restoration Law in India, inspired by the EU's model, could include the following.

First in the list is restoration targets. India should aim to restore 20% of its degraded land by 2030, with a goal of restoring all ecosystems by 2050. This includes forests, wetlands, rivers, agricultural lands, and urban green spaces.

Second is wetland restoration. While peatlands are less common in India, critical wetlands such as the Sundarbans and Chilika Lake support biodiversity and carbon sequestration. A law could target restoring 30% of degraded wetlands by 2030.

Third is biodiversity in agriculture. Agriculture dominates India's landscape. Promoting agroforestry and sustainable practices could restore farmlands. Indicators such as the butterfly or bird index used in the EU, could track progress.

Fourth is river restoration. India could focus on restoring free-flowing rivers, beginning with major rivers such as the Ganga and Yamuna, addressing pollution and obstructions.

Fifth is urban green spaces. To combat urban degradation, India should ensure no net loss of green spaces, promoting urban forests in cities such as Bengaluru and Delhi, which face heat islands and declining air quality.

Economic and social benefits of restoration

The benefits of such a law would extend beyond environmental restoration. According to the World Economic Forum, nature restoration could globally generate economic returns of up to $10 trillion annually by 2030. In India, restoring degraded lands would enhance agricultural productivity, improve water security, and create millions of jobs, particularly in rural areas. The law could also help India meet its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Goal 15, which calls for the sustainable management of forests and combating desertification.

Restoring ecosystems can also mitigate the effects of climate change, which exacerbates land degradation. Degraded land loses its capacity to absorb carbon dioxide, further contributing to global warming. By restoring its ecosystems, India can enhance its carbon sinks and meet its commitments under the Paris Agreement.

The EU's Nature Restoration Law sets an important precedent for countries worldwide. Given the alarming levels of land degradation and biodiversity loss in India, such a law in India would not only help India restore its degraded ecosystems but also contribute to its socio-economic development and climate resilience. The clock is ticking, and the time to act is now.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

India and bipolar world

The contrast pointed out in the Editorial page article (October 21) is factual but the writer has played down the role of other players and their international relationships.

India's antiquated foreign policy gives ample room for China to manoeuvre not only in the greater Indo-Pacific but also in international trade. In spite of all the hype about 'making India a global manufacturing hub' and 'Make in India', nothing material has happened to India's economy.

The international multilateral environment is too confused with many minor groupings that endeavour to further relationships in smaller geographic areas. Every small pressure group has its role in both economic and political aspects.

Needless to say, India needs to realign its foreign policy by steering away from trade and economic dependence on any country or pressure-group.

Unnikrishnan S. Menon,
Thrissur, Kerala

Constant differences

It is unfortunate that the Governor's office in some States is becoming a controversial one, with frequent differences of opinion being aired publicly between the Governor and the Government (Editorial, October 21). Governors wading into political waters ill behoves the high office that they hold. At the same time, political leaders need to observe decency and decorum as the Governor's cooperation is necessary for the smooth running of the government.

Kosaraju Chandramouli,
Hyderabad

Hypocrisy of the West

The ongoing diplomatic tussle between India, Canada and the United States has exposed the glaring hypocrisy of the western nations. The West's moral posturing rings hollow when viewed through the lens of its own actions. How can India be accused of breaching U.S. and Canadian sovereignty when these countries violated international norms? The U.S.-led invasion of Iraq in 2003, justified by fabricated claims of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, is a stark reminder. The chaos and devastation wrought in West Asia are a direct result of this intervention. Yet, when other nations assert their sovereignty, the West suddenly becomes the champion of human rights and democracy. Sovereignty and human rights are not selective ideals, applicable only when convenient.

Harsh Raj,
Ranchi, Jharkhand

AI's Cassandra moment

Jacob Koshy

Nobel laureates are exceptional scientists but Geoffrey Hinton, the co-winner of this year's Nobel Prize for Physics, is particularly so. Few laureates have expressed regret over the consequences of their own prize-winning work; none before they won the coveted prize.

Hinton's regrets

In May 2023, Hinton, a pioneer of deep learning, who has nurtured talented researchers in the computer science and Artificial Intelligence (AI) domain, quit his advisory role at Google. His reasons, according to The New York Times, were to be able to speak more freely about the "dangers" posed by AI. He said that a part of him "regrets his life's work". Developments in the ideas that he pioneered enable today's learning machines to drive cars, write news reports, produce deepfakes, and take aim at professions that seem invulnerable to automatisation.

From being dormant for decades, neural networks, in his view, had suddenly become "a new and better form of intelligence". He reckons that it would not be too much of a leap to expect AI systems to soon create their own "sub-goals" that prioritised their own expansion. Moreover, AI machines are able to almost instantly "teach" and transmit their entire knowledge to other connected machines – a feat that is slower and error-ridden in the animal brain. He expressed concern that AI could fall into the "wrong hands" and believes that Russian President Vladimir Putin would have little compunction in weaponising AI against Ukraine.

Whether or not experts saw AI as apocalyptic was a matter of being "optimistic or pessimistic," he told MIT Technology Review, but there was near-consensus among those who understood these developments that AI presented a form of learning superior to that in people.

Ilya Sutskever, who completed his doctoral studies under Hinton, mirrored his mentor's concerns. Sutskever as the Chief Scientist of OpenAI, the developer of ChatGPT, voted to fire Sam Altman as the CEO of the company last November. The coup failed, and ChatGPT lives in Microsoft's stable. OpenAI's foundational goal was to build "safe and responsible AI" and Sutskever, according to media reports, felt that the company was prioritising "profitability" over this original mission. Coincidentally, on the day that the Physics Nobel was announced, Hinton said that he was "particularly proud of the fact that one of my students (Sutskever) fired Sam Altman".

Should Hinton's assessment of the dangers of AI carry greater weight than, say, those of businessman Elon Musk, who has also spoken of AI as being a "risk to humanity"? Can a scientific authority always be trusted upon to do the right thing?

A lesson from history

In August 1939, Albert Einstein and Leo Szilard, his former colleague and friend and a fellow Jewish émigré, wrote one of history's most consequential letters, to U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt. A year prior, Otto Hahn and Fritz Strassman, working in Nazi Germany, had demonstrated nuclear fission, or the breaking up of uranium nuclei. With the spectre of World War II looming in Europe, Szilard and Einstein were concerned that a "large mass of uranium" could "liberate considerable quantities of energy" and create the most powerful bombs ever known, which could prove catastrophic.

The letter was essentially a plea to Roosevelt to fund and thoroughly investigate uranium and atomic bomb research. Einstein, a Nobel laureate already acknowledged as the world's greatest scientist, brought considerable cachet with his words though his only connection to atomic research was in showing that mass and energy were equivalent. This letter, however, became the impetus for the Manhattan Project, a scientific and military effort by the U.S. to develop atomic bombs. While the scientists had hope that the U.S.'s efforts would prevent Germany from developing and deploying the most lethal weapon, it was finally the U.S. that ended up dropping atomic bombs on Japan, killing at least 2,00,000 people and inflicting inter-generational harm. Germany gave up on its bomb efforts almost mid-way through the war, while the U.S. went on to build and test more destructive hydrogen bombs that prompted Russia to up the stakes with even more powerful ones.

Before the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima, Szilard had appealed to the U.S. to control nuclear technology and prevent a nuclear arms race. The world knows how that has panned out. Today, nine countries together possess at least 12,000 nuclear warheads, with 90% of these distributed between Russia and the U.S. For all its purported potential for good, nuclear power barely accounts for 10% of the world's electricity. Einstein deeply regretted his letter to Roosevelt and later said that it was the "one great mistake" of his life – his fears of German atomic armament proved unfounded and the country he had trusted to do better had instead charioteered humanity into the Atomic Age.

AI systems may not be plotting to incinerate humanity, but they are mushrooming at a time when globalisation has withered; and corporations, not countries, are poised to control technological advances and neural networks, and are also killing more jobs than creating new ones.

Hinton has called for the regulation of AI. If this leads to corporations monopolising AI, instead of facilitating an honest reckoning of its adverse consequences, it would be a redux of the Einsteinian mistake.

AI systems may not be plotting to incinerate humanity, but they are mushrooming at a time when globalisation has withered, and corporations, not countries, are poised to control technological advances and neural networks

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A bitter battle for the bypolls

The results will have larger implications for not just parties, but also individual leaders

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa
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Karnataka is set to witness another bitter electoral battle on November 13 between the ruling Congress and the Opposition National Democratic Alliance (NDA), comprising the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and Janata Dal (Secular), as by-elections are being held in three constituencies – Channapatna, Sandur, and Shiggaon. These three seats fell vacant following the victories of JD(S) president H.D. Kumaraswamy, E. Tukaram of the Congress, and former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai of the BJP, respectively, in the Lok Sabha elections in June.

The spotlight is particularly on Channapatna, a key part of the Vokkaliga heartland. Given the drubbing that the Congress received in the Old Mysore region during the Lok Sabha elections, Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC president D.K. Shivakumar is paying particular attention to the by-election in this constituency. The defeat of his brother, D.K. Suresh, in the Bengaluru Rural Lok Sabha constituency, of which the Channapatna Assembly constituency is a part, was a personal setback for him. The winner, C.N. Manjunath, a noted cardiologist and son-in-law of former Prime Minister and JD(S) supremo H.D. Deve Gowda and brother-in-law of Mr. Kumaraswamy, fought on a BJP ticket.

The families of Mr. Shivakumar and Mr. Gowda have been fighting for the leadership role of the community for years. While Mr. Shivakumar gained an upper hand after the Congress performed well in Vokkaliga-dominated constituencies in the 2023 Assembly elections, the electoral outcomes were reversed to favour Mr. Kumaraswamy in the 2024 parliamentary elections. The clash of egos is turning Channapatna into a high-stakes, high-decibel battle between the two families.

A poor performance at Channapatna could be seen as yet another blow for Mr. Shivakumar, who has initiated a slew of development projects in the region ahead of the by-polls. There is speculation that Mr. Suresh could be the Congress candidate.

The JD(S) is expected to put up a strong fight to retain the seat, but is facing trouble after five-time MLA C.P. Yogeshwar quit as BJP MLC. There is fear therefore that he might contest as an independent or enter the fray from another party; this could put a spoke in the JD(S)'s wheels and make the contest triangular. Mr. Yogeshwar has turned down the JD(S)'s offer to enter the fray on the regional party's ticket. The JD(S) is considering Nikhil Kumaraswamy, son of the Union Minister, as a possible candidate besides two other local leaders.

While the developments in Channapatna masked the electoral intensity in the other two constituencies – Shiggaon, and Sandur – recent developments have made Shiggaon more interesting. To scotch rumours, Mr. Bommai had maintained that his son, Bharath Bommai, will not contest the seat; yet, just hours after he made this statement, the BJP announced Mr. Bharath as its candidate. This has led to rumblings on dynastic politics in the saffron party, an issue that has dogged the local unit ever since B.Y. Vijayendra, son of former Chief Minister, B.S. Yediyurappa, was elevated as BJP State president.

The Congress seems confident about winning the Sandur constituency though it has not announced a candidate, just like in the other two constituencies. It is expected to announce candidates in the next couple of days. The BJP has nominated its Scheduled Tribe (ST) Morcha president Bangaru Hanumanthu for the Sandur (ST reserved) seat.

While ruling parties have tended to perform better in by-elections, these polls are being held at what is perhaps the most difficult phase of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's political career. He faces allegations of corruption as 14 sites were distributed by the Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to his wife in Mysuru; and inquiries by the Enforcement Directorate and Lokayukta. (The sites have been returned to MUDA now.) The political slugfest over corruption issues seems to have put the Chief Minister on the backfoot, triggering a churn within the Congress.

The BJP is also under pressure as the ruling dispensation has instituted inquiries into alleged corruption in various transactions during the previous regime, including crores worth of purchases during the COVID-19 pandemic. It also faces criticism for dynasty politics. This time, it is not just a battle of parties; the fortunes of these leaders will be tied to the outcome.

Maharashtra economically better off, but lags behind in social measures

The State is among the top 10 in per capita income; it ranks last among all the States in the share of wasted children

DATA POINT

Samreen Wani

Maharashtra is economically better off than many other States and it weathered the pandemic well. However, its performance on various social indicators, particularly those related to health and education, show a sobering trend.

With a per capita income of ₹2.8 lakh in 2023-24, over 50% more than the national average, Maharashtra is among the top 10 States on this measure. Five years ago, it was not in the top 10 list. The latest numbers therefore show an improvement in the State's economic performance. However, the improvement post-pandemic was not spurred by manufacturing. The contribution of manufacturing to the State's Gross State Value Added (GVA) is on a declining trend, from 15% in 2019-20 to 14.5% in 2023-24, despite the sector employing more workers than before (over 2 percentage points).

The State, which is set to vote in Assembly polls on November 20, spends a relatively small share of its budget on health. Its allocation for education has been reducing over recent years too. The social sector has been receiving lower allocations despite the State's own tax revenues improving and committed expenditures decreasing.

Compared with 2019-20, Maharashtra's per capita income rose by over 46% in 2023-24. The State's rank improved from 10 to 8 out of 25 States with data, in that period **(Table 1).**

In general, the State's spending on health as a share of total expenses has always been lower than other States. In 2024-25, Maharashtra is estimated to spend 4.6% on health. In estimated spending, it is ranked 16 out of 19 States, which is an improvement of just two ranks compared to five years prior **(Table 2).** While the State earmarks a larger share for education – 16.4% in 2024-25 – the share has declined from 18.6% in 2019-20. Consequently, the State's rank also declined from the 5th to 7th position in this measure.

The State features among the bottom ranks across measures related to child health and women empowerment. In 2019-21, Maharashtra was ranked last (30th of 30 States) on the share of wasted children (lower weight-for-height). More than 25.6% children fell under this category in the State **(Table 3).** In 2005-06, the State had ranked 13th on this indicator, with just 16.5% children being identified as "wasted". In the share of stunted children, it ranked 22nd out of 30 States in 2019-21, again two positions lower than in 2005-06.

In the share of girls who ever attended school, the State ranks 19th of 30 States in 2019-21, with close to 80% of them having attended school. However, the State was among the top 10 States in terms of Infant Mortality Rate and health insurance coverage in 2019-21.

In 2019-20, over 66.7% of Maharashtra's revenue receipts were raised from the State's own tax revenues (SOTR), the highest among the 19 major States compared **(Table 4).** By 2024-25, the State's OTR share increased to over 68.7%, though Haryana and Karnataka surpassed it in this metric.

Maharashtra also has larger headroom for developmental spends compared to nine other major States. Its ratio of committed expenditures to revenue receipts is expected to decline slightly from 57.2% before the pandemic to 55.2% in 2024-25 **(Table 5).** Committed expenditures, which are interest payments, salaries, and pensions, are seen relative to revenue receipts to assess the availability of resources for development purposes.

The State is also expected to allocate 12.7% of its total expenditure for creating new infrastructure in 2024-25, considerably higher than the 9.6% it had allocated in 2019-20 **(Table 6).**

Maharashtra report card

The data was collected from the NFHS, the PLFS' Annual Reports, the PRS & MOSPI. Includes The Hindu's calculations

A worker operates a machine inside a small scale manufacturing unit in Mumbai. REUTERS

Table 1: Per capita income (in ₹)

Year	Maharashtra's value*	Maharashtra's rank
2023-24	2,77,603	8/25
2019-20	1,89,843	10/25

** Per Capita NSDP at current prices*

Table 2: Maharashtra's spending on education and health as a share of total expenses

Parameter	2019-20	2024-25*
Spending on education	18.6%	16.4%
Rank on education spending	5/20	7/20
Spending on health	4.4%	4.6%
Rank on health spending	18/19	16/19

** Budget estimates*

Table 3: Ranking across social indicators

	Maharashtra's value	Maharashtra's rank
Infant mortality rate		
2005-06	37	8/30
2019-21	23.2	9/30
Children under 5 years who are stunted (height-for-age) (%)		
2005-06	46.3	20/30
2019-21	35.2	22/30
Children under 5 years who are wasted (weight-for-height) (%)		
2005-06	16.5	13/30
2019-21	25.6	30/30
Households with any usual member covered under a health insurance (%)		
2005-06	7.1	23/30
2019-21	20	5/30
Female population aged 6 years and above who ever attended school (%)		
2005-06	70.3	22/30
2019-21	79.6	19/30

Table 4: State's own tax revenue in revenue receipts

Year	Maharashtra's value	Maharashtra's rank
2024-25 (estimates)	68.7%	3/19
2019-20 (Actuals)	66.7%	1/19

Table 5: Ratio of committed expenditure to revenue receipts

Year	Maharashtra's value	Maharashtra's rank
2024-25 (estimates)	55.2%	10/19
2019-20 (Actuals)	57.20%	10/19

Table 6: Capital outlay as a share of total expenditure

Year	Maharashtra's value	Maharashtra's rank
2024-25 (estimates)	12.7%	10/19
2019-20 (Actuals)	9.6%	13/19

Table 7:

Parameter	2019-20	2023-24
Manufacturing jobs as a share of total	10.3%	12.7%
Manufacturing's share in total GSVA	15.0%	14.5%

- In Table 1, Telangana, Karnataka, Haryana, Tamil Nadu and Kerala had better per capita income than Maharashtra in 2023-24, among major States
- In Tables 4, 5 and 6, the comparison was only carried out among major States. States in the northeast and smaller States such as Goa were not considered for analysis.
- In Table 3, Union Territories were not considered for comparison

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FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1974

Gold ornaments and silver bars seized

Jodhpur, Oct. 21: Twenty and a half kgs of gold ornaments and 115 kgs of silver bars were seized yesterday by the Central Excise and Income-tax officials in raids at Jalore, Pali and Deshnok.

Six kgs of gold ornaments were seized from the Jalore residence of the alleged smuggler Nainmal Punjaji, detained under the MISA. Five kgs of gold ornaments and 115 kgs of silver bars were seized from the residence of Nainmal Rikhabdas at Pali.

Nine-and-a-half kgs of gold ornaments were seized from the residence of Prakash Chand and Deepchand at Deshnok in Bikaner district. The officials have also seized some incriminating documents.

Bombay: Officers of the Anti-Corruption Bureau seized 144 packages of contraband textiles valued at Rs. 15 lakhs in two instalments in the Juhu area of North Bombay on Sunday, ACB sources reported.

A packet of emeralds, seized from a jeweller at the Bombay airport on August 29 last, has been officially valued at Rs. 13 lakhs, against a dealer's receipt for Rs. 2.50 lakhs shown by the jeweller at that time, according to income-tax authorities here.

The emeralds and Rs. 3.36 lakhs in cash were seized from the jeweller who, according to the tax authorities, told them that the emeralds were meant for a customer at Jaipur.

The authorities said to-day they had not been able to trace the jeweller at the address of a shop given by him.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO OCTOBER 22, 1924

Cochin.

Cochin, Oct. 19: The British Cochin Municipality has arranged a series of Health lectures for the benefit of the townsfolk and the first of these was delivered the other day by Dr. P. Krishna Warrier, the subject being "Hookworm". The lecture was illustrated by the magic lantern pictures. Another lecture on 'Cholera' was delivered yesterday at the Calvetly Moplah School and this was also illustrated by magic lantern slides.

Cholera has broken out in certain parts of the town and some ten deaths are reported so far in Mattancherry. Both the Mattancherry and British Cochin Municipalities are taking preventive measures.

From Page One

India, China reach deal on easing LAC tensions

Mr. Misri did not confirm a meeting between the leaders either, but said the government was discussing a number of bilateral meetings in Kazan,the venue of the BRICS summit.

"[BRICS] is a multilateral event, though, of course, there is always a provision for bilateral meetings on the sidelines. We are currently looking into the overall programme of the Prime Minister. There are a number of requests for bilateral meetings, and we will update you on the bilaterals as they evolve, as soon as feasible," the Foreign Secretary said, not denying that a meeting with the Chinese leader was among those.

Mr. Misri, who was previously India's Ambassador to China and likely a key part of the recent negotiations, did not give further details of the agreement between two sides.

He referred to the recent meetings that led to the breakthrough, including two meetings between Mr. Jaishankar and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in June-July, two meetings of the WMCC mechanism of diplomatic and military officials in July-August, followed by a meeting in September between National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and Mr. Wang.

SC clarifies on laws for minority institutions

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy said the 2004 Act was a regulatory statute of the State of Uttar Pradesh. "The High Court conflated regulations with religious instructions and concluded the law violated secularism," Ms. Guruswamy submitted.

The Chief Justice pointed out that Article 30 enabled minorities to establish and administer their institutions which were not entirely confined to teaching of their religion. "A Zoroastrian or Buddhist institution can teach medicine or engineering. There is no compulsion that a Buddhist institution should teach only Buddhism," he said.

Petitioners argued that the High Court had found that madrasas violated Article 28 of the Constitution, which prohibited "religious instruction" in educational institutions fully funded by the State. They argued that academics in madrasas was a "mixture of science, mathematics, etc with certain portions of religious education and not religious instruction".

The Bench however questioned whether a certificate from a madrasa would be valid for a student to go outside its system for a postgraduate course. Ms. Guruswamy said the solicitations to give madrasas university status began in 2002, but there has been no headway. The court would resume the hearing on October 22.

Wangchuk ends fast as govt. agrees to talks

"On the 16th day of our fast, we are happy to say that our main appeal has been solved. Joint Secretary, Home Ministry, handed a letter to me which says talks between apex bodies of Leh and Kargil with the Central government will be resumed in December. We are hoping that both sides hold these talks in utmost cordiality and good faith. My main role was to facilitate these talks. I hope I do not have to sit on a hunger strike again," Mr. Wangchuk said after breaking the fast.

JMM, RJD yet to reach consensus on seats

However, the RJD stressed that it will not let the boat sink or sabotage the INDIA bloc's prospects of defeating the BJP in Jharkhand. On Monday, Mr. Yadav held a meeting with Mr. Soren at his official residence in Kanke, Ranchi. RJD MP Manoj Jha and Rajya Sabha member Sanjay Yadav were present. However, the half-an-hour meeting ended with no conclusion. CPI(ML) representatives were also present during the meeting.

Earlier in the day, the Tejashwi Yadav-led RJD was scheduled to hold a press conference and was about to release the list of candidates which got postponed twice. Sources in the RJD said the party had agreed on the seven seats contested in the last Assembly election and the remaining four would be given to the CPI(ML), which is supporting the government in the Assembly.

NIA begins probe into Ganderbal attack

However, the police have not confirmed the veracity of the purported statement. TRT claimed that its men "targeted a construction site where a billion-dollar tunnel project primarily intended for military transportation is underway". Official sources said the targeted killings of non-locals "apparently seems very well planned". Automatic rifles like INSAS were used to target the campsite in Ganderbal's Gagangeer area. Initial probe suggested that the militants set on fire at least two vehicles of the company on Sunday.

(With PTI inputs)

LAC buffer zones may go; no clarity on de-escalation

Demchok is a disputed area where India and China have varying claims in the Charding La area. At Depsang, Chinese troops have been blocking Indian patrols from going beyond the Y-junction

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

Pulling out: Since the Corps commander-level talks in 2020, the two sides have undertaken disengagement from five points. AFP

The breakthrough achieved by India and China towards disengagement in eastern Ladakh comes after two years of stalemate over two remaining friction points, Depsang and Demchok.

Defence sources say patrolling along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in this sector will resume now. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar confirmed this, saying the understanding is that "we will be able to do patrolling which we were doing till 2020".

Resumption of patrolling as it was in 2020 means that the buffer zones set up after disengagement from the friction points will be done away with. However, there is still no clarity on the modalities of the disengagement process. The understanding reached is to restore patrolling as was being done earlier, a source in the know said adding that a frequency would be worked out and done in a coordinated manner to avoid potential face-offs and clashes.

"There are areas which, for various reasons after 2020, they have blocked us, so we had blocked them... We have reached an understanding which will allow the patrolling... Depsang, that is not the only place, there are other places also. The understanding is that we will be able to do patrolling which we were doing till 2020," Dr. Jaishankar said at an event.

Terming it a positive development, he said the agreement has just been reached and advised "caution", saying there "will be meetings now to see what are the next steps".

Earlier in the day, Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri said the two countries had reached an agreement for patrolling arrangements, leading to disengagement and resolution of the issues that had arisen in these areas in 2020. However, there is no movement yet on de-escalation of the thousands of troops deployed in eastern Ladakh since the stand-off began.

Demchok is one of the two mutually agreed disputed areas in eastern Ladakh with each side having varying claims in the Charding La area. China set up tents on the Indian side of Charding Nala in 2017 and its presence expanded as the stand-off unfolded in April 2020. China insists that these two issues predate the 2020 stand-off, while India stresses that the ingress in 2020 has to be revoked, which had caused a stalemate in the talks.

Patrols blocked

At Depsang plains, Chinese troops have been blocking Indian patrols for some time from going beyond the Y-junction by deliberately facing off due to which the Indian Army has not been able to access the Patrolling Points (PP) 10, 11, 11A, 12 and 13 located on the Limit of Patrolling, which lies before the LAC. India last accessed the PPs in Depsang in January/February 2020, as reported by *The Hindu* in 2020.

Under agreed protocols, both sides undertake a banner drill when patrols come face to face as a way to prevent their escalation which involves both sides waving banners at each other and asserting their claim and then returning. China has been using this to block Indian patrols. As agreed by both sides during the initial phases of disengagement following the violent clash at Galwan in June 2020, the first step is disengagement from all friction areas, working out new patrolling norms and then de-escalation which is pulling back the thousands of additional troops inducted along the LAC.

Since the Corps commander-level talks in 2020, the two sides have undertaken disengagement from five friction points - from Galwan after the violent clash in June 2020, from the North and South Banks of Pangong Tso in February 2021, from Patrolling Point (PP) 17 in the Gogra-Hot Springs area in August 2021 and PP15 in September 2022.

The last disengagement, from PP15, followed the 16th round of Corps Commander-level talks on July 17, 2022.

PM's 2020 remarks weakened India's position: Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress also said that Parliament was never allowed to discuss the LAC stand-off issue

Hours after the External Affairs Ministry announced a breakthrough in the disengagement process with China at the Line of Actual Control, the Congress on Monday took a swipe at Prime Minister Narendra Modi by claiming that his 2020 remarks had "weakened India's position immeasurably".

The Opposition party at the Centre also said that Parliament was never allowed to discuss the issue.

"While we await fuller details of the agreement reached between India and China, it is pertinent to recall that Parliament was not allowed an opportunity for a discussion on the border situation even once these past four-and-a-half years," Congress general secretary (communication) Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"And can the nation ever forget these remarks made by the non-biological PM on June 19, 2020, which weakened us immeasurably?" he added, tagging Mr Modi's statement made at an all-party meeting after the Galwan clashes.

At the meeting, Mr. Modi said that neither had anyone taken control over any Indian post nor had anyone remained inside the Indian territory.

"We await the details about the arrangement that has been agreed upon with China. The Foreign Secretary's language was cryptic. Let's hope that while restoring Indian patrolling rights, it doesn't allow the PLA [People's Liberation Army] access to areas it was not coming to earlier," All India Majlis-e-Ittehadul Musilmeen (AIMIM) chief and Lok Sabha member Asaduddin Owaisi said in a post.

Stating the need to know the terms of agreement in the border area, Mr. Owaisi said, "This should not be a repeat of what we witnessed in Doklam after 2017 where the PLA gained permanent presence in the area. Unless full details are made available, it is hard to be certain of the outcome."

'Manipur awaits'

In a separate post, Mr. Ramesh also took a swipe at the Prime Minister a day before he leaves for the BRICS summit in Russia. He said, "Kazan certainly beckons but sadly Manipur still awaits."

The Congress has repeatedly urged Mr. Modi to visit violence-hit Manipur, stressing that it would help restore peace and normalcy there.

Bengal doctors call off fast after meeting with Mamata

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

Junior doctors addressing a press conference before meeting Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee in Kolkata on Monday. ANI

The West Bengal Junior Doctors' Front has decided to call off its hunger strike after a two-hour meeting with Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Monday. The resident doctors have been on a fast-unto-death at Esplanade in the heart of Kolkata since October 5 over the R.G. Kar Hospital rape and murder.

More than half a dozen of the doctors had to be hospitalised after their health deteriorated. The development assumes significance as Ms. Banerjee, for the past few days, had appealed to the doctors to withdraw the strike and come to the discussion table.

The parents of the victim, who visited the doctors on hunger strike, said that they did not want to lose another child like theirs to the hunger strike.

The doctors said many civil society groups had requested them to give up the hunger strike and keep fighting for their demands.

Debasish Haldar, speaking on behalf of the junior doctors, said: "Respecting the request from the victim's parents and the multiple requests made by the civil society, we are withdrawing the indefinite hunger strike. We have also decided to drop our plans to cease all medical services from tomorrow, October 22, which we had previously called for."

Earlier, the meeting came out with a resolution to set up a task force by March 2025.

The doctors held a two-hour discussion with the Chief Minister, which was telecast live from the Secretariat. Chief Secretary Manoj Pant had asked for only 10 doctors to be present, but 17 participated.

Multiple other stakeholders were also present at the meeting.

SC dismisses Kejriwal's plea challenging defamation case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Arvind Kejriwal

The Supreme Court on Monday cited parity to dismiss a petition filed by former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal challenging a defamation case registered against him for his comments on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's educational qualification.

A Bench headed by Justice Hrishikesh Roy said it had refused to entertain an identical petition filed by Aam Aadmi Party leader Sanjay Singh, who is Mr. Kejriwal's co-respondent in the defamation case, in August and thus, cannot now take a different approach with the former Chief Minister. "We should be consistent," Justice Roy observed.

The court, however, did not look into the merits of the case and kept all the contentions open for Mr. Kejriwal to raise in the trial court in his favour.

During the hearing, Mr. Kejriwal's counsel, senior advocate A.M. Singhvi, said the defamation complaint did not satisfy the preliminary requirement under Section 199 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. That is, the aggrieved party had not lodged the defamation complaint. It was filed by the Gujarat University Registrar.

Mr. Singhvi said the remarks attributed to him were considered part of the "public discourse". "Otherwise where is Article 19(1)(a)," he asked.

Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the university, said the certificate in question was published on the varsity website. "He is in the habit of making reckless, defamatory statements and then regretting them... He should be either circumspect or stand by them," Mr. Mehta said.

Justice Roy, in a lighter vein, said, "Politicians are more adventurous... Unless they say it in a loud voice and loud manner..."

"But not irresponsibly..." Mr. Mehta intervened.

Mr. Singhvi said his arguments against the defamation case were reasonable and the other party had adopted a "high horse" attitude.

The court made it clear that it was dismissing the petition merely on the fact that it had to take a consistent approach in the case.

Secularism is a core part of the Constitution: SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said secularism is an indelible and core part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution.

The court made the oral observation while hearing a batch of petitions filed by former Rajya Sabha member Subramanian Swamy and others challenging the inclusion of the words "socialist" and "secular" in the Preamble to the Constitution.

"This court has in a number of judgments held that secularism was always part of the Basic Structure of the Constitution. If one looks right to equality and the word 'fraternity' used in the Constitution, there is a clear indication that secularism has been held as the core feature of the Constitution," a Bench of Justices Sanjiv Khanna and Sanjay Kumar said.

Justice Khanna disagreed with the argument of the petitioners that the term "socialism" would curtail personal liberty and individualism.

"One should not take the meaning adopted in Western countries... Socialism can also mean that there should be equality of opportunity and the wealth of the country should be distributed equally," Justice Khanna remarked.

Advocate Ashwini Upadhyay, a petitioner, said he was not against the words "socialist, secular, and integrity" or their insertion in the Constitution but against the insertion of these words into the Preamble in 1976 and that too with a retrospective effect from November 26, 1949.

The Preamble was amended in December 1976 by the Indira Gandhi government to introduce the words "socialist" and "secular". The phrase "unity of the nation" was replaced with "unity and integrity of the nation". The changes were made in the Preamble through the 42nd Constitution Amendment during the Emergency.

Originally, the text of the Preamble declared India as a "sovereign, democratic republic". The words "socialist" and "secular" were inserted between "sovereign" and "democratic".

The largest Bench in the history of the Supreme Court (13 judges) in the *Kesavananda Bharati* case had held that the Preamble was an integral part of the Constitution, and was subject to the amending power of Parliament, provided the Basic Structure was not tinkered with.

Advocate Sriram Parakkat, appearing for CPI leader Binoy Viswam, said the 42nd amendment was indeed "infamous". It had after all tried to reduce the power of the Supreme Court and the High Courts. "While subsequent amendments more or less restored the Constitution to what it was pre-1976, this change was made in the Preamble... that we are secular and socialist... was retained," Mr. Parakkat submitted.

Police suspect Khalistani link to Delhi blast

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi Police suspect a Khalistani link to the low-intensity blast that took place in Rohini on Sunday. The police have written to messaging app Telegram for details of a group that claimed responsibility for the explosion, sources said on Monday.

"The police have written to Telegram for details of the creator of the group Justice League Indian in which the CCTV footage of the blast was shared with a Khalistan Zindabad watermark on it," a source said.

No paper trail on Waqf Bill process, alleges Opposition

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Union Minister of Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju.

At a meeting of the Joint Committee on the Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 on Monday, the Opposition members grilled the representatives of the Union Minority Affairs Ministry on the consultation process before the drafting of the legislation.

The Opposition members have contended that the Ministry was unable to categorically establish a paper trail of the consultations that took place.

Four meetings

As per a submission by the Ministry, 12 officials from the Minority Affairs Ministry and the Law and Justice Ministry drafted the law. Four consultative committee meetings were held, two in Delhi and one each in Mumbai and Lucknow.

The Chief Executive Officers of the Waqf Boards in the States and Union Territories took part in the meetings held in Delhi on on June 13 and November 7, 2023, while the Ministry said that members of the public were also called for the two other consultations.

"We had asked the committee to give us details of the consultative process that the legislation went through. Turns out the minutes of the meeting, they submitted about the purported consultations they have had, are basically meetings chaired by the Minister on administrative and operational issues regarding the implementation of the old Act," a senior Opposition leader said.

He said the minutes did not mention any reasons for bringing in the new legislation or clause-by-clause consultation with various stakeholders.

Raises questions

Another member wanted to know if the Central Waqf Council was involved in the drafting of the law, and additionally which of the 12 officials from the two Ministries had a specialised knowledge of the Muslim law.

"The Ministry has not been able to show a paper trail which can establish the process by which the law was drafted or consultations with all stakeholders happened. This raises several questions, including which extra-constitutional body was involved in drafting of the Bill," a third member said.

Meanwhile, Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla is yet to respond to the complaints filed by the Opposition members and BJP MP Tejasvi Surya.

Talks on 96 seats completed, no disputes in MVA: Patole

Congress holds a meet of the party's Central Election Committee with leaders from Maharashtra in New Delhi; party State chief says Sharad Pawar and Uddhav will hold more discussions

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Poll preparations: Maharashtra Congress president Nana Patole addresses the media after attending the party's CEC meeting for Maharashtra Assembly polls in New Delhi on Monday. ANI

Discussions within the Opposition Maha Vikas Aghadi continue as the Congress State chief, Nana Patole, said in New Delhi on Monday that talks on 96 seats had been completed and Nationalist Congress Party (SP) chief Sharad Pawar and Shiv Sena (UBT) leader Uddhav Thackeray would hold further discussions.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, along with Congress Parliamentary Party Chairperson Sonia Gandhi and party leaders Rahul Gandhi and K.C. Venugopal, held a meeting of the party's Central Election Committee with leaders from Maharashtra in the national capital to finalise candidates for the upcoming polls.

Mr. Patole expressed confidence in the alliance, rejecting rumours of disagreements and accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of deliberately spreading misinformation.

"There are no disputes between Congress and Shiv Sena. The BJP is trying to create misunderstanding because they fear losing the Assembly election," Mr. Patole said. He attacked the BJP's stance on Hindutva, calling it "fake", and accused the party of using Hindu identity for political gain.

The BJP, he said, engages in double-dealing, citing the renaming of Aurangabad to Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar while still listing it as Aurangabad in official documents.

"This is BJP's politics of convenience," Mr. Patole said, while reiterating the Congress's commitment to secularism.

The Election Commission has scheduled voting in Maharashtra for November 20, with results to be declared on November 23, just a day before the current Assembly's term expires.

Mr. Kharge accused the BJP of being the "biggest enemy" of Maharashtra's farmers, asserting that the only way farmers would benefit was by removing the "double engine" government from power. This remark comes as the Maha Vikas Aghadi is ramping up its campaign to challenge the ruling Mahayuti alliance led by the BJP.

In a post on X, Mr. Kharge criticised the BJP's handling of the State's agricultural sector, highlighting the rising number of farmer suicides and accusing the party of making hollow promises. He referred to the BJP's pledge to make Maharashtra drought-free as "*jumla*" (empty rhetoric).

'False promise'

"Twenty thousand farmers have committed suicide. There has been a huge cut in agricultural funding, and the ₹20,000 crore water grid promise was false," he said.

The Congress president condemned the government's refusal to compensate farmers, while insurance companies had benefited by ₹8,000 crore.

He further criticised the export bans and high duties on onion and soya bean farmers, alongside the declining production of cotton and sugar cane, claiming the BJP's policies had worsened the situation for farmers.

The Congress president called for a "*maha parivartan*" (major change), arguing that Maharashtra's farmers would only prosper if the BJP was ousted.

He also highlighted the crisis facing Maharashtra's milk cooperatives, a situation even the government acknowledges.

INBRIEF

BJP inciting riots in U.P. for political advantage: Akhilesh

Samajwadi Party (SP) president Akhilesh Yadav on Monday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) is "deliberately inciting riots" in the State to gain "political advantage" ahead of the byelections to nine Assembly seats in Uttar Pradesh. He said the SP-led alliance candidates would win all the seats. "The BJP caused the riots as elections are coming. The party has no answer to the people's questions. Inflation and unemployment are going up. The BJP has stopped the development that socialists started in the State," said Mr. Yadav.

EC approves Ajay Kumar Singh as new Jharkhand DGP

The Election Commission of India on Monday approved the appointment of Ajay Kumar Singh as the Jharkhand Director-General of Police (DGP). Mr. Singh, a 1989-batch officer of the Indian Police Service, is the senior-most officer in the cadre. He was selected from the panel of three IPS officers sent by the State government after the EC had ordered immediate removal of Acting DGP Anurag Gupta on October 19, sources said.

'States must not be penalised for success in family planning'

The Congress on Monday asked whether the long-delayed Census would be used for allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha, and said the success of South Indian States in family planning should not end up reducing their political representation in Parliament. Congress general secretary, communications in-charge, Jairam Ramesh, said the States should not be "penalised" for their success in family planning and suitable formulae should be worked out. PTI

Jharkhand election: Congress releases list of 21 candidates

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress late on Monday night released its first list of 21 candidates for the Jharkhand Assembly election.

Former Jharkhand Pradesh Congress Committee president Ajoy Kumar, veteran tribal leader Rameshwar Oraon, legislator Deepika Singh Pandey and Irfan Ansari are among the prominent names in the list.

While Mr. Oraon has been fielded from the reserved seat of Lohardaga, Mr. Kumar, a former Lok Sabha member, will be contesting from Jamshedpur East.

Ms. Singh has been fielded from the Mahagama Assembly constituency and Mr Ansari is being repeated from his constituency of Jamtara.

Earlier, on Monday evening, the Central Election Committee of the party deliberated upon the names before clearing the list.

On Sunday, Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) executive president and Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren had announced that the Congress and the JMM would contest 70 of the 81 seats, leaving 11 seats for the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) and the Left parties.

No official declaration

The Congress is expected to contest 29 seats, two fewer than what it did in the previous Assembly election. There is no official declaration yet as negotiations between the JMM and the RJD are on.

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DR.N.T.R. UNIVERSITY OF HEALTH SCIENCES, A.P., VIJAYAWADA-08

NOTIFICATION FOR ADMISSION INTO BAMS & BHMS COURSES UNDER MANAGEMENT QUOTA AND ALL INDIA QUOTA (AIQ) SEATS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-25.

Separate Application forms through online are invited from the eligible candidates duly uploading of scanned original certificates for admission into **BAMS & BHMS Courses under Management Quota and All India Quota (AIQ) Seats in Private Un-aided Non-Minority Homeopathy and Ayurvedic Colleges available under Dr.NTR University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada in the State of A.P. for the academic year 2024-25.**

Schedule	From 09.00 P.M on 21.10.2024 to 09.00 P.M on 25.10.2024
Application link for MQ:	https://apuhs-ugadmissions.aptonline.in/UGAYUSHMQ/Home/studentlogin
Application link for AIQ:	https://apuhs-ugadmissions.aptonline.in/UGAYUSHAIQ/Home/StudentLogin
Website: for detailed Notification/ Prospectus/ Regulations.	https://drntr.uhsap.in

VIJAYAWADA
Date:21-10-2024

Sd/-(Dr.V.RADHIKA REDDY)
REGISTRAR

CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute
Rana Pratap Marg, Lucknow - 226 001 U.P. (India)
website: https:// www.nbri.res.in

Short Advertisement No. 02/2024

Advertisement for recruitment to the posts of Technical & Support Staff

Date and time of Commencement of Registration/Online Applications & Application Fee Submission (Online)	23.10.2024 from 10:00 AM
Last date of submission of the Online Application (Thereafter website link will be disabled)	21.11.2024 up to 06:00 PM

Applications in the prescribed format are invited from eligible candidates for the following positions: -

Designation	No. of posts	Pay level in Pay matrix	Upper age limit
Technical Assistant	Total – 07 post [UR-03, OBC–01, SC–01, ST–01 & EWS–01]	Level -06	28 years
Technician (1)	Total – 13 post [UR-04, SC–03, OBC – 04 & EWS - 02]	Level -02	28 years

Candidates have to apply online on https://recruit.nbri.res.in or by visiting Institute's website https://www.nbri.res.in and applying on the link available there. The detailed advertisement, terms & conditions and instructions to the candidates are available on Institute's website https://www.nbri.res.in.

Controller of Administration

RajCOMP Info Services Limited (RISL)
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C-Block, 1st Floor, Yojana Bhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur.

NIB code./ Date/ Unique bid no.	Particulars	Estimated Cost/ EMD	Start of sale/ Last date
RIS2425A0050/ 21.10.2024 (RIS2425SLOB00050)	RFP for hiring of agency for Upgradation (repair/replacement) and procurement of FMS & Comprehensive Annual Maintenance Contract (CAMC) of WS&APS Phase 1 Project in State of Rajasthan for 5 Years based on Open Competitive Bidding through e-Procurement/ e-Tender	Rs.42.24 Cr.	21.10.2024 13.11.2024

Details can be seen on the websites **http://risl.rajasthan.gov.in**, **http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**. **http://doitc.rajasthan.gov.in**. Bids are to be submitted through **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in**.

Raj.Samwad/C/24/6830

SA (Jt. Director)

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(CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438)

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPP portal)

BESCOM invites tenders through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **Enquiry No: BESCOM/2024-25/EL/Work_Indent225** for Running 11kV Link line for evacuation of Power to reduce load on Overloaded Feeders on Item wise fixed price Rate Contract in **Magadi Division** Jurisdiction of Ramanagara Circle, BESCOM for a Period of One year under Total Turnkey Basis."

Bid Documents available from **23.10.2024** onwards. Last date for Bid Submission on **21.11.2024, 17:15 Hrs.** Opening of Bid Document on **22.11.2024, 17:30 Hrs.**

The Tenders can be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website:**https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Aspiring bidders need to register on KPP portal. Further Bidders can take the assistance of Karnataka Public Procurement Portal helpdesk contact numbers **(+91-8046010000, +91-8068948777)** or email at **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

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Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture,
East Zone, 17th Floor, Mayhall Building,
M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560 001

No: SADH/TENDER/06/2024-25 **Dated: 21.10.2024**

LETTER OF INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)
(Two Cover System) (STD KW-1, KW-2, KW-3 & KW-4)

(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East) Zone, (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites Tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies/ Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour Department for Maintenance of Parks.

Sl No	Name of the Work
1	Beautification, Landscape Development, Water Facility and Other Civil Works in Sarvajnanagara Assembly Constituency in East Zone. **Amount: ₹.1,05,85,850.31 EMD: ₹.1,58,750/-**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Date of Notification is **21.10.2024. (2)** Tender can be downloaded from **25.10.2024. (3)** Pre bid meeting on **30.10.2024** at **11:30** am. **(4)** Tender Closing date **04.11.2024** at **4:30** pm **(5)** Technical Bid Opening Date **06.11.2024** at **4:30** pm. **(6)** Financially Bid Opening Date After approval of Technical Bid. **Sd/-**

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (East Zone)

भारत सरकार - अंतरिक्ष विभाग / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA - DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
निर्माण एवं अनुरक्षण समूह, एसडीएससी-शार / CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP, SDSC-SHAR
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संक्षिप्त ई–निविदा सूचना / Brief E-TENDER NOTICE

सं.शार:सीएमजी सिविल: अनुरक्षण: ई–जन निविदा / **No: SHAR:CMGCIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-10/24-25** तिथि/ Date. **21.10.2024**

भारत के राष्ट्रपति की ओर से **"एसडीएससी शार, कीपाकम के प्रशासन भवन के आँगन में ऊर्ध्वाधर उद्यान प्रदान करना"** (टी/सी-24-042, अनुमानित लागत ₹ 23.03 लाख) हेतु मद दर ई–निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती हैं। निविदा दस्तावेजों को **30.10.2024** को **14:30** बजे तक डाउनलोड किया जा सकता है। इच्छुक निविदाकार विस्तृत सूचना के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट **www.isro.gov.in** या **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** देखें।

On behalf of President of India, Item Rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for **"Providing Vertical garden in courtyard portion of Admin building, Keepakam, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-042, Est. cost ₹ 23.03 Lakhs). Tender documents can be downloaded up to **30.10.2024**, **14:30** hrs. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.

हस्ताक्षरित- समूह प्रधान, सीएमजी / एसडीएससी शार / **Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG / SDSC SHAR**

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDERS (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites tenders in two stage tender system from eligible contractors for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
	Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore - 560 009.	
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5969/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
1	Providing and laying 300mm dia RCC NP3 class pipe line at Uttarahalli main road from Rajathadri palace to Shanimahathma temple chikkalasandra main road coming under PP layout S/S OF AEE SW-5 Sub Division.	**Rs. 206.74 Lakhs** / **Rs. 3.10 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5970/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
2	Providing and laying 200,150 mm dia DI feeder main along with 100mm dia distribution line in lieu of 150mm and 100mm CI line at 1st main to 7th main to improve the water supply to Srinivasanagar coming under Kathriguppe service station of SW-4 sub division(CALL-2).	**Rs. 299.17 Lakhs** / **Rs. 4.48 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5971/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
3	Providing & laying 200,150 and 100mm dia DI WS feeder line and distribution line at BSK I stage 20th, 19th, 18th, 17th main and surrounding areas from Nagendra block OHT to Bank colony main road coming under Mountjhoy S/Stn of SW-3 Sub division (CALL-2).	**Rs. 114.55 Lakhs** / **Rs. 1.72 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5972/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
4	Providing, laying 100/150 mm dia DI pipeline to replace 75/100mm dia corroded CI water pipeline at Cheluvadipalya DMA and surrounding area Coming under JJR S/s of AEE SW2 Sub-Division area (CALL-2).	**Rs. 289.42 Lakhs** / **Rs. 4.34 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5973/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
5	Providing, laying 100/150 to replace 75mm dia CI corroded pipeline at Sameerpura and surrounding area Coming under VV Puram S/s of AEE SW2 Sub-Division area (CALL-2).	**Rs. 107.46 Lakhs** / **Rs. 1.61 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5974/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
6	Providing and laying 300/230mm dia RCC/SW sewerline to improve sewerage facilities to Old Mangammanapalya cross roads, 5th cross to 10th cross Bandeapalya and surrounding areas coming under the jurisdiction of HSR layout service station of AEE(S)-1-2Sub Division(Call-2).	**Rs. 142.29 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.13 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-I/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5975/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
7	Providing and laying 300/230mm dia RCC SW sewer line facilities to vishal mart surrounding areas, Rajeev Gandhi Nagara, St Mary's Church and surrounding areas coming under the jurisdiction of HSR layout service station of S-1-2 Sub Division (Call -3).	**Rs. 191.47 Lakhs** / **Rs. 2.87 Lakhs**
	IFT NO.BWSSB/EIC/CE(S)/ACE(S)-II/DCE(M)-I/TA(S)/5976/2024-25	**Dt:19.10.2024**
8	Upgradation of Water supply Facility by providing and laying of 300/250/150/ 100mm dia DI water Pipe line at Kavery nagar Supply being fed by Banashankari GLR Coming under Devagiri S/St of AEE SW-4 Sub div (CALL-2).	**Rs. 307.61 Lakhs** / **Rs. 4.61 Lakhs**

For all the above works, Last date for receipt of tenders : **05.11.2024 upto 15:00 Hrs.**
The Tenders will be opened on: **07.11.2024 after 16.00 Hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (South)

The details regarding the tender and participatin in the e-procurement process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/JA/2643/2024-25

INBRIEF

'Drones, misuse of AI among security challenges ahead'

Union Home Minister Amit Shah said on Monday that 216 police personnel were killed in the line of duty in the past one year. He flagged the use of artificial intelligence (AI) to create unrest and conspiracies to provoke religious feelings to fan communal tensions among the emerging internal security challenges. "Emerging threats from drones, narcotics, misuse of AI to disrupt peace and conspiracy to provoke religious feelings to fan communal tensions, cybercrime, infiltration, smuggling of arms and terrorism are some of the challenges ahead," Mr. Shah said on the occasion of Police Commemoration Day. He said the police forces were safeguarding India's borders.

SC allows Justice Nath to chair DERC despite crossing age bar

The Supreme Court on Monday directed Justice Jayant Nath (retd.), former Delhi High Court judge, to continue as Chairperson of the Delhi Electricity Regulatory Commission (DERC), regardless of the fact that he has crossed the age limit of 65. A three-judge Bench headed by Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud passed the order on a plea by the Delhi government. Appearing for the Office of the Lieutenant-Governor, Additional Solicitor-General Sanjay Jain said the government agreed to the continuation of Justice Nath or naming others for the post in case the age limit of 65 was sacrosanct for the court.

Cyclone Dana likely to cross West Bengal, Odisha coasts

The Hindu Bureau
BHUBANESWAR

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday said the well-marked low-pressure area over the Bay of Bengal, which is likely to intensify into a severe cyclonic storm, would cross north Odisha and West Bengal coasts between Puri and Sagar Island during the night of Thursday and early morning on Friday.

The system will likely deepen into a depression on Tuesday and a cyclone on Wednesday .

The severe cyclonic storm Dana could record wind speed of 100-110 kmph gusting 120 kmph and cause heavy to very heavy rain in 11 districts of Odisha. Warning for fishermen has been extended to October 25.

A red alert has been issued for Mayurbhanj, Cuttack, Jajpur, Balasore, Bhadrak, Kendrapada, and Jagatsinghpur.

Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi chaired a high-level meeting to take stock of the preparedness. "We are ready to face the cyclone. All the disaster response teams have been put on readiness. Our focus is to ensure zero casualties," he said.

SC to hear in January pleas against blocking BBC film

As Centre fails to file a counter, Justice Khanna gives it three weeks to file one; petitions say the right to lawfully circulate the documentary is part of right to freedom of speech and expression

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday posted petitions challenging the Union government's decision to block the screening of a British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) documentary series titled *India: The Modi Question* to the second week of January 2025.

A Bench headed by Justice Sanjiv Khanna had issued formal notice to the Union of India through the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, Twitter Communications India Private Ltd., and Google India Private Ltd. on February 3, 2023. The court had listed the case in April then.

However, on Monday, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, appearing for the government, said he had "just realised" that the Centre was yet to file its counter to the petitions filed by senior journalist N. Ram, Mahua Moitra, MP, and advocate Prashant Bhushan.

The petitions had highlighted the citizens' "fundamental right to view, form an informed opinion, critique, report on and lawfully circulate the contents of the documentary as right to freedom of speech and expression incorporates the right to receive and disseminate information".

> The contents of the BBC documentary and tweets of Moitra and Bhushan are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The content of the documentary series do not fall under any restriction on free speech or restrictions imposed under Section 69A of the IT Act
>
> **PETITION IN SUPREME COURT**

Government's lapse

Appearing for the petitioners, senior advocate C.U. Singh strongly objected to the government's lapse in filing its counter even as Mr. Mehta sought more time to file its response.

Mr. Singh said the court need not wait for the government reply as the case concerned a "take-down" order against the documentary.

Justice Khanna said the court wanted the benefit of the government's response and gave the Centre three weeks to file its counter and two weeks for the petitioners to file their rejoinder, if any.

"The timelines must be adhered [by the parties]," Justice Khanna said. The documentary is believed to be critical of the role of then Gujarat Chief Minister Narendra Modi in the 2002 riots.

In the hearing in February 2023, Mr. Singh cited instances "where officials more loyal than the king" blocked screening on university campuses and even rusticated students for watching the film.

The students of Rajasthan Central University in Ajmer were suspended for watching the film. The Jawaharlal Nehru University administration had issued an advisory to cancel a screening to maintain "peace and harmony" on the campus.

The petitioners referred to reports about detention of students and presence of riot police on the Jamia Milia Islamia campus in Delhi.

The petition filed by Mr. Ram and others argue that the Ministry, under Rule 16 (3) of the Information Technology Rules, 2021 and Section 69(A) of the Information Technology Act, 2000, had sent a legal request to Twitter India to block 50 tweets concerning and even containing links to the documentary.

The tweets of Mr. Bhushan and Ms. Moitra were among those taken down. YouTube links of the video were blocked, the petition had said.

"The contents of the BBC documentary and tweets of Moitra and Bhushan are protected under Article 19(1)(a) of the Constitution. The content of the documentary series do not fall under any restriction on free speech or restrictions imposed under Section 69A of the IT Act," the petition said.

Officials hold discussion on bomb threat to airlines

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Two top aviation security officers met Union Home Secretary Govind Mohan on Monday and discussed the unabated bomb threats to Indian airlines, leading to diversions, cancellations and passenger inconvenience.

Zulfiquar Hasan, Director-General, Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS), and Rajwinder Singh Bhatti, Director-General of the Central Industrial Security Force, met Mr. Mohan at his office at North Block here. The three officers remained closeted for about half an hour.

Mr. Hasan and Mr. Bhatti, both senior officers belonging to the Indian Police Service, have briefed the Home Secretary about the incidents of bomb threats and the steps taken to check such incidents, sources said.

However, details of the meeting are not known immediately.

As many as 25 flights of Indian airlines received bomb threats on Sunday. This week, nearly 100 flights received threats sending security agencies into a tizzy. The threats later turned out to be hoaxes.

Pradhan visits Singapore to deepen ties in education

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan met the Prime Minister of Singapore, Lawrence Wong, on Monday and held discussions on elevating and expanding bilateral cooperation in school education, vocational education and research between the two countries.

Mr. Pradhan's visit to Singapore, followed by a trip to Australia, from October 20 to 26, aims to foster collaboration, participation and synergy in critical areas of mutual interest in education, an official statement from the Ministry said.

He emphasised that India viewed Singapore as a trusted knowledge partner, particularly in advancing deep tech, startups and innovation ecosystems.

In a first, Wikipedia takes down article globally after Delhi HC order

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Wikipedia has taken down an article titled "Asian News International vs. Wikimedia Foundation", the entry on the ANI news agency's defamation lawsuit against the online encyclopedia's parent foundation. This is the first instance of an English Wikipedia article being taken down by the foundation in the encyclopedia's history.

The takedown follows an order by the Delhi High Court in which Chief Justice Manmohan and Justice Tushar Rao Gedela ruled that the Wikipedia page describing criticism of the lawsuit "amounts to interference in Court proceedings" and violated the "*sub judice* principle".

A Wikimedia spokesperson declined to comment. Takedown or alteration requests have been complied with only in fewer than half-a-dozen instances in Wikipedia's history, after requests from Germany, France and Ukraine, as per transparency reports published by the foundation since 2012.

Takedown or alteration requests have been complied with only in fewer than half-a-dozen instances in Wikipedia's history. FILE PHOTO

It is unclear whether in these instances individual pages were completely removed or only specific pieces of content were lifted. The Division Bench of the court said the characterisation of a previous ruling in the case as a threat to the "flow of information and knowledge" was prejudicial to the proceedings. This line was edited out of the article in its most recent state.

The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 does not prohibit the coverage of court proceedings. However, it only provides for exemption for criticism of a court order after a case has "been heard and finally decided".

The Wikipedia page on ANI remains available, and much of the information on the page dedicated to the court case is available as a section in this article.

The news agency is suing the foundation for a description that currently says that the agency "has been accused of spreading pro-government propaganda, anti-opposition disinformation, engaging in partisan campaigning for the BJP, and using a vast network of fake news websites to push disinformation".

"I think nothing can be worse for a news agency than to be called a puppet of an intelligence agency, stooge of the government," Justice Manmohan said on Monday. "If that is true, the credibility goes."

ANI is seeking the page's editing, and ₹2 crore in damages.

SC gives Radhakrishnan-led committee two weeks more to file NEET overhaul report

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday gave the Centre's high-powered committee headed by former Indian Space Research Organisation Chairperson K. Radhakrishnan two more weeks to file its report on recommendations and ways to implement a top-to-bottom overhaul of the National Eligibility-cum-Entrance Test (NEET) exam process.

The top court has tasked the seven-member Radhakrishnan committee to revamp the exam process in a judgment on August 2. The judgment had made scathing remarks against the "flip-flops" of the National Testing Agency (NTA) in the conduct of NEET-Undergraduate (NEET-UG) 2024, which was riddled with allegations of paper leaks currently under CBI investigation.

K. Radhakrishnan

The committee was directed to come up with suggestions to rectify "serious security lapses", to introduce data protection measures, rigorous checks, periodic audits, surprise inspections of exam centres, grievance redressal mechanisms for students and foolproof logistics. The 2024 NEET-UG saw question papers transported in e-rickshaws.

"A body such as NTA which is entrusted with immense responsibility in relation to highly important competitive exams cannot afford to misstep, take an incorrect decision, and amend it at a later stage... Flip-flops are an anathema to fairness," the court had chastised in its decision in August. Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud, who heard the case, had said the mishaps orchestrated by the NTA were a "luxury students cannot afford".

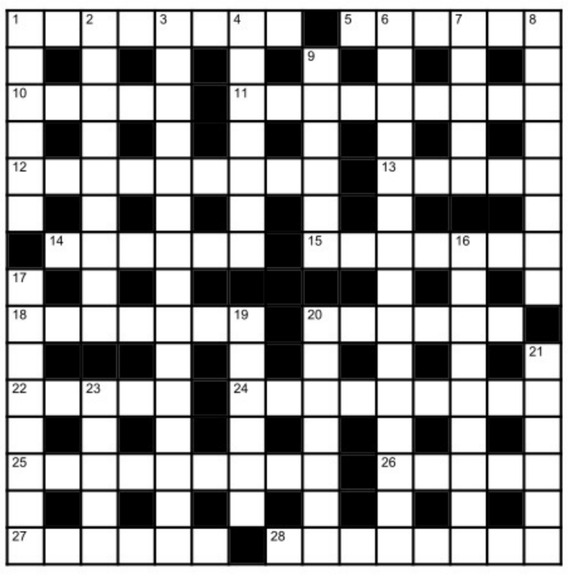
"The Centre has to restructure the whole process of the NEET through the high-powered committee. It has to ensure that we do not have further such examples in the future," Chief Justice Chandrachud had said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14311

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Horrible rogues troubling maiden on base (8)
5 Model beginning to seduce prince in party (6)
10 The German state is magnificent, captures traveller's heart (5)
11 Call accountant to check account, getting Jaguar's latest sports vehicle (6,3)
12/24 Be alternatively occupied, as busy seafood chef might say? (4,5,4,2,3)
13 Check paperwork finally and sign again (5)
14 Removes one's clothes in voyage aboard ship (6)
15 Please speak about fine model making a comeback (7)
18 Threatens to tackle government beginning to abolish wine shops (7)
20 Suave rogue stealing lady's treasures (6)
22 Character spilling new brown pigment (5)
24 See 12
25 Badly infected patient at centre is weak (9)
26 Love to look at mountain nymph (5)
27 Loves to host extremely important figures (6)
28 Spiders scurrying around bottom of table and chairs (8)

Down

1 Good shirt, various sizes (6)
2 Intoxicated nut in dive is unwelcome (9)
3 Experiment with mutated virus at centre, scaring the docs (12,3)
4 Tramps litter endlessly over bridge (7)
6 Saluting actor on set for good job (15)
7 Some broccoli, chickpeas, fruit (5)
8 Old jailers run tests, extremely worried about escape perhaps (8)
9 Startles starlet at premiere with endless kiss (6)
16 Fellow chasing woman on ground in English city (9)
17 Top seed knocked out! Noise in a ground increased (8)
19 Hurt by endless rubbish about cuddling female (6)
20 Six chapatis sent up for guest (7)
21 Group of stars, close to many in the underworld (6)
23 Haze over swamp hampers force chasing fugitive finally (5)

SUDOKU

			4					
3		8	9				7	
9		2		8			1	5
7	1					2		
			2	1	5			
		5					9	3
6	2			7		3		1
	8				3	5		6
					2			

No.SS6317 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	3	9	5	2	4	1	6
9	5	2	6	1	4	7	3	8
1	4	6	7	3	8	5	2	9
6	1	4	8	2	7	9	5	3
5	9	8	4	6	3	1	7	2
3	2	7	5	9	1	6	8	4
7	8	1	3	4	6	2	9	5
4	3	5	2	7	9	8	6	1
2	6	9	1	8	5	3	4	7

FAITH

Rama sets an example for all

Listening to the Ramayana is considered efficacious at all times. One may ask why that is so. The Ramayana is an epic delineating dharma and shows how one can follow the same in one's life by applying the same principles. Saints have eulogised the epic as a life lesson on dharma, said Damal Ramakrishnan in a discourse.

Like a fisher diving deep into the ocean to harvest pearls, devotees find fresh nuggets of wisdom with every exposure to the Ramayana. Not for nothing has the great Azhwar said, "*Karpar Ramapiranai allal matrrum karparo*?" (Those who want to learn, will they learn about anyone other than the great benefactor Rama?) Vishnu took avatar as Rama, the son of Dasaratha, and lived as one among the people for the purpose of instructing us on how to live, on how to prepare for various challenges, how to face them and go through them all.

Rama grew up in a joint family. Like any of us, He too faced change in fortunes overnight. As the first born he was assured of the crown and yet the night before coronation he was asked to go to the forest and renounce his claim for 14 years. He obeyed his father's command without further ado. All these challenges happened to Rama, a man, who was born in Ayodhya, the city celebrated as Vaikuntam, with the perennial Sarayu ensuring there was excellent agricultural produce and the people, healthy and wealthy. The monsoon never failed, but poured three times a month (*maadham mummari pozhindhu*) and the citizens knew neither poverty nor illness. When faced with adversity, Rama showed steadfastness in following the path of dharma, setting an example for all.

INBRIEF

UltraTech Cement posts ₹825 crore Q2 net profit

UltraTech Cement on Monday reported a consolidated net profit of ₹825.18 crore for the September quarter. The company had posted a net profit of ₹1,280.38 crore in July-September FY24, according to a regulatory filing. According to UltraTech, its consolidated results are "not comparable" due to the acquisition of an additional stake, increasing its holding to 54.79% in Ras Al Khaimah Company for White Cement & Construction Materials PSC (RAKW). PTI

Union Bank of India Q2 PAT jumps 34% to ₹4,720 crore

Union Bank of India reported 34.43% growth in net profit to ₹4,720 crore for the quarter ended September 30 from ₹3,511 crore in the year-earlier period. Net interest income (NII) declined about 1% to ₹9,047 crore, while net interest margin fell 28 basis points (bps) to 2.9%, the bank said in a filing. Gross non-performing assets (NPAs) fell 25% to ₹40,499 crore from ₹54,012 crore in the year-earlier period. Net NPAs fell 16% to ₹8,759 crore from ₹10,421 crore.

Wendt India Q2 net rises 22% to ₹10.5 cr. on higher sales

Wendt India reported that its standalone net profit for the September quarter rose 22% to ₹10.5 crore from the year-earlier period on account of higher sales to user industries. Revenue from operations rose 10% to ₹50.55 crore, of which exports constituted ₹11 crore. Exports were higher by 8% over the same quarter last year due to an increase in outbound shipments to Germany, Russia, U.K., Indonesia and Italy, the Murugappa Group company said.

'Some slackening of momentum but GDP may have risen 6.8% in Q2'

Slowdown partly attributable to idiosyncratic factors like unusually heavy rains in August and September, and *Pitru Paksha*, RBI officials said in an article in the central bank's October Bulletin

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Revving up: India's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines despite recent geopolitical tensions, the article said. PTI

India's GDP is projected to grow 6.8% in the second quarter of 2024-25, marginally higher than the 6.7% uptick in the first quarter (Q1), as per an economic activity index compiled by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) based on a range of high frequency indicators that was cited by its officials in an article on Monday.

The article on the "State of the Economy" in the central bank's October Bulletin noted that while India's growth outlook is supported by robust domestic engines despite recent geopolitical tensions, some high frequency indicators have shown a slackening of momentum in Q2.

This slackening was partly attributable to idiosyncratic factors like unusually heavy rains in August and September, and *Pitru Paksha*, the RBI officials led by Deputy Governor Michael Debabrata Patra said in the article.

Some of the indicators that have waned include goods and services tax (GST) collections, automobile sales, bank credit growth, merchandise exports and the manufacturing purchasing managers' index (PMI), the article indicated. "The Indian economy has exhibited marked resilience in spite of a sequential ebb in momentum in the second quarter of 2024-25 on account of a host of factors..." the article said, but pointed to a sequential improvement in consumer perceptions about the current situation and future expectations and continued optimism among industry players about future growth prospects.

"Supply chain pressures eased in September, falling below historical average levels, although they remain vulnerable to geopolitical risks which have escalated in October. Our economic activity index (EAI) 26, based on a range of high frequency indicators, projects GDP growth at 6.8% in Q2:2024-25," the article concluded.

"Looking ahead, private investment is showing some encouraging signs in terms of lead indicators while consumption spending is shaping up for a festival season revival," the article said, having pointed to a positive outlook among manufacturers about capacity utilisation in the ensuing quarters.

The article, however, flagged concerns around stretched valuations in Indian stock markets and the uncertainty surrounding geopolitical conflicts in the Middle East, which got reflected in the pullback in key indices witnessed in October. "Markets are likely to tread cautiously with an eye on corporate earnings reports for Q2FY25 and trends in global markets," they added.

Inflation outlook

Inflation, which had stayed below the central bank's median target of 4% for two consecutive months through July and August, surged in September as an adverse statistical base effect was compounded by a resurgence in food price momentum, the article underlined.

While the sharp pick up in retail inflation last month, to 5.5%, was driven by the food group, they noted that core inflation also registered an uptick along with a narrowing of the deflation in fuel prices.

"Food price pressures in respect of vegetables could turn out to be transitory with robust kharif harvest arrivals, although the surge in the price momentum of oils and fats can have second order effects impacting overall inflation through input costs of fast moving consumer goods," the RBI officials averred.

Food price data till October 17 indicate a softening in prices of cereals and pulses (except gram dal) but edible oils continued to harden after import duties were hike 20 percentage points in September, while onions and tomato prices have risen steeply.

Amid the heightened geopolitical tensions, net importer countries face the pass-through risk of increase in commodity prices, especially of crude oil and metals, the article pointed out.

ICRA expects a 'transient blip' in Q2 GVA growth

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Gross Value Added (GVA) growth in the Indian economy is expected to record 'an intermittent dip' in the second quarter (Q2) of 2024-25, despite economic activity levels improving in September from a 16-month low in August, rating agency ICRA indicated.

India's GDP had risen 6.7% in the April to June quarter, while the GVA was up 6.8%. The Reserve Bank of India had projected a 7.2% growth in GDP through this financial year, but recently lowered its Q2 growth estimate to 7% from 7.2%, while retaining the full-year forecast.

"The year-on-year (YoY) growth in economic activity, as measured by the ICRA Business Activity Monitor – an index of high frequency indicators, improved to 7.2% in September from 16-month low 6.1% in August, partly aided by a favourable base," ICRA said.

In quarterly terms, growth in the Index moderated to 7.9% in Q2 from 10.1% in Q1, with the agency attributing this to the impact of excess rainfall on mining, electricity generation and retail footfalls.

After cooling in Q2, ICRA expects growth to pick up in the second half of the year with GVA growth likely to rebound to more than 7%, on an improvement in rural demand following favourable monsoon, kharif sowing trends and acceleration in government capex growth.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,151	-0.09
US Dollar	84.07	0.00
Gold	80,650	0.93
Brent oil	74.17	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2937.65	-64.35
Adani Ports	1375.50	-30.10
Apollo Hosp	6986.40	3.50
Asian Paints	3049.20	57.05
Axis Bank	1190.30	-6.55
Bajaj Auto	10500.50	436.55
Bajaj Finserv	1758.40	-61.50
Bajaj Finance	6780.90	-118.65
Bharat Elec	282.30	-4.85
Bharti Airtel	1692.55	-15.30
BPCL	331.65	-10.85
Britannia Ind	5778.30	-108.90
Cipla	1523.75	-27.95
Coal India	485.40	-6.80
Dr Reddys Lab	6697.40	-43.70
Eicher Motors	4810.45	44.80
Grasim Ind	2718.25	-42.70
HCL Tech	1843.60	-14.10
HDFC Bank	1728.70	46.85
HDFC Life	745.85	3.40
Hero MotoCorp	5242.25	26.05
Hindalco	739.60	-13.90
Hind Unilever	2693.55	-23.55
ICICI Bank	1259.05	-5.45
IndusInd Bank	1308.25	-39.00
Infosys	1852.75	-26.85
ITC	483.65	-3.05
JSW Steel	981.45	-11.15
Kotak Bank	1789.20	-81.85
L&T	3585.60	7.80
M&M	2998.20	33.95
Maruti Suzuki	12175.90	70.80
NestleIndia	2354.65	4.40
NTPC	425.00	0.05
ONGC	276.60	-6.70
PowerGrid Corp	331.15	-0.90
Reliance Ind	2738.40	19.80
SBI Life	1711.85	5.80
State Bank	813.95	-6.45
Shriram Finance Ltd.	3313.30	-31.35
Sun Pharma	1897.00	-13.35
TataConsumerProduct	1017.05	-76.20
Tata Motors	903.30	-6.85
Tata Steel	155.03	-0.36
TCS	4079.85	-43.20
Tech Mahindra	1701.20	13.30
Titan	3363.25	-18.20
Trent Ltd.	7606.55	-161.50
UltraTech Cement	10869.30	-200.00
Wipro	548.10	-0.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on October 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	83.87	84.19
Euro	90.99	91.33
British Pound	109.25	109.67
Japanese Yen (100)	55.93	56.15
Chinese Yuan	11.79	11.84
Swiss Franc	97.05	97.43
Singapore Dollar	63.89	64.14
Canadian Dollar	60.69	60.92
Malaysian Ringitt	19.46	19.56

Source:Indian Bank

Bajaj Housing Finance net rises 21% to ₹546 cr. in Q2

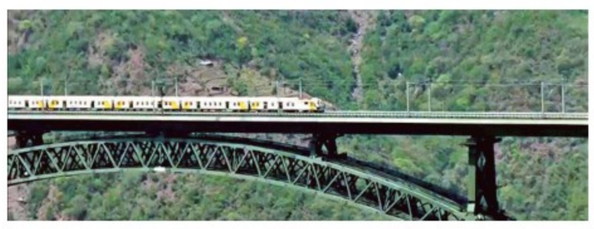
The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bajaj Housing Finance Ltd. profit after tax grew 21% year-on-year to ₹546 crore in Q2 on strong growth in net interest margin, according to regulatory filings by the company. This is the first quarterly result announcement since the lender's listing on bourses.

Net interest income grew 13% to ₹713 crore. Assets Under Management stood at ₹1,02,569 crore, 26% more than ₹81,215 crore in the year-earlier period. Gross non performing asset ratio (NPAs) and Net NPAs came in at 0.29% and 0.12% respectively, in the July to September 2024 quarter.

Shapoorji Pallonji firm Afcons Infra IPO opens this Friday

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI



The Chenab Rail Bridge was built by Afcons Infrastructure. ANI

Shapoorji Pallonji Group firm Afcons Infrastructure Ltd., which built the Chenab rail bridge and the Atal tunnel, will open bids for an initial public offering of shares worth ₹5,430 crore on October 25, as per its red herring prospectus (RHP). Bids will close on October 29.

The IPO will consist of a fresh issue of ₹1,250 crore, and an offer for sale of ₹4,180 crore. The price band has been fixed at ₹440 to ₹463 a piece. The firm plans to use ₹600 crore to repay debt, ₹320 crore for ong-term working capital needs and ₹80 crore on equipment.

By the quarter ended June, the company had 70% of its order book coming from government projects in India and another 21% from government projects in other countries.

About half of Afcons' projects constitute urban infrastructure. The largest onging project in the company's order book is the construction of a tunnel connecting Bandra Kurla Complex with Shilphata at Thane for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train Project, including a 7-km underground rail-sea tunnel.

Key risks for the firm include non-receipt of payment, lack of new projects and interest rate risks among others. According to the RHP, Afcons had a floating rate borrowing of about ₹900 crore as of Q1.

"We are going to use the proceeds for repayment of debt and the company's debt is significantly going to come down and that will strengthen the company's balance sheet", Ramesh Kumar Jha, CFO of Afcons Infrastructure said.

Bank staffers' body warns of a nationwide stir on sparse hiring

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Representational image

The All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) has warned of a nationwide agitation to press its demand for recruiting adequate staff in all public and private sector banks.

AIBEA general secretary C.H. Venkatachalam said in a statement on Monday that the association had been demanding all vacancies be filled up in order to provide efficient service to banking customers.

"In the last few years, banks are not recruiting adequate number of employees. Recruitment of staff has slowed down. Recruitment of subordinate employees has been stopped totally," he said.

"There are more than a lakh positions lying vacant in banks," Mr. Venkatachalam claimed.

According to him, instead of filling up the vacancies, banks were trying to outsource permanent jobs on temporary and contract basis, which the AIBEA was strongly opposed to.

On recovery of bad loans, he urged the government to publish the list of defaulters and insisted that action be taken to recover the dues. Mr. Venkatachalam noted that bad loans or non-performing assets (NPAs) had increased over the years.

A chunk of the loan defaulters are huge corporates, and not individuals, he said. "Instead of taking stern action on the defaulters to recover the loans, huge concessions are being allowed to them," the AIBEA general secretary emphasised in the statement.

IRDAI directs two insurers to conduct IT systems audit

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has directed two insurers to carry out audits of their IT systems following recent instances of policyholders' data leaks.

Without naming the insurers, IRDAI said it takes data breaches very seriously and asserted it would continue to engage with the companies to ensure that policyholders' interests are fully protected.

Star Health Insurance had recently admitted to a data breach.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : 51/SE/PHC/ TSR/2024-25, KIIFB- WSS to Thrissur Corpn and adj Pts - Phase I - Package II & Package III-Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of CWGM of 1200mm MS pipe from WTP to Kanimangalam, 900 mm pipe from Kanimangalam to Nedupuzha and DI pipes of 800 mm dia from Kanimangalam to various tanks. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/-, **Tender fee :** Rs. 17,700/-, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 08-11-2024 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 0487 – 2423230
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer,
KWA-JB-GL-6-738-2024-25 PH Circle, Thrissur

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Zone, Ajmer
No.:-ACE/AJ/TECH/F2(30A-Ajmer)/D-3070 Date:- 15.10.2024
NIB No.:-PWD2425A2192
Notice Inviting Bid No. 16/2024-25
Bids for 12 No. Works are invited from interested bidders **upto 5.00 P.M. on Friday 08 November 2024**. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in**) of the State; and DIPR departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 9307.26 Lacs.
UBN No.:- PWD2425WSOB08173, 08175, 08183, 08185, PWD2425WLOB08179, 08186, 08188, 08189, 08192, 08195, 08198 & 08199.
(V.K.Jain),
Additional Chief Engineer,
DIPR/C/10121/2024 PWD, Zone, Ajmer.

बीकानेर नगर निगम
नगर निगम मार्ग, बीकानेर (राजस्थान) फैक्स :- 0151-2226906, फोन :- 0151-2226902, 0151-2226905
E-Mail Address :- nagarnigambikaner@gmail.com, Web Site :- www.bikanermc.org
क्रमांक :- यंत्रालय/2024/701-10 दिनांक :- 18/10/2024
अल्पकालीन ई- निविदा सूचना सं0 -09
बीकानेर नगर निगम की ओर से रिको इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया (करणी इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया, खारा इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया, बीछवाल इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया एवं रानी बाजार इंडस्ट्रियल एरिया) के लिगेसी वेस्ट को हटाने एवं परिवहन कार्य हेतु बैक–हो–लोडर (JCB) एवं डम्पर मय चालक/ऑपरेटर, रखरखाव, POL सहित 02 माह के लिए उपलब्ध करवाने के कार्य हेतु इच्छुक एवं अनुभवी संवेदकों से निर्धारित प्रपत्र में ई–प्रोक्यूमेंट प्रक्रिया द्वारा ऑनलाईन निविदाएं आमंत्रित की जाती है। निविदा फार्म ऑनलाईन वेबसाईट **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** से डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड तथा **www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** से डाउनलोड किये जा सकते है।
कार्य की अनुमानित लागत :– 67.00 लाख। अतिआवश्यक कार्य होने पर अल्पकालीन ई–निविदा। **UBN Number :- DLB2425SLOB10846**
आयुक्त,
राज.संवाद/सी/24/6808 नगर निगम, बीकानेर

Government of Rajasthan
Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department
(Panchayati Raj)
Phone : 0141-2385027(O), & E-Mail ID: rajpr.dsplan@rajasthan.gov.in & rajpr.comm@rajasthan.gov.in
No.F4()PRD/DP/RGSA/TRAINING/2024-25-39004 Dated:
NOTICE INVITING BID (NIB-1/2024-25)
Expression of Interest (EOI) is invited for selection of Agency for Capacity Building & Training and IEC under Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA) in all District & Block level under Panchayati Raj Dept. Govt. of Rajasthan.
Details may be seen in the Bidding EOI at office of Secretary & Commissioner Panchayati Raj Department of Rajasthan or at following State Public Procurement Portal websites :-
• **"sppp.rajasthan.gov.in"**
• **"https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in"**
• **"rajpanchayat.rajasthan.gov.in"**
The Bidding document may be downloaded from either of the above website and uploaded duly filled with prescribed fee.

S. No.	BID Title	UBN No.
1	Expression of Interest (EOI) for selection of Agency for Capacity Building & Training and IEC activities.	PAN2425SLOB00006

(Brajesh Kumar Chandolia)
Head Of Office &
Add. Commissioner & Jt. Secretary (I)
DIPR/C/10201/2024 Panchayati Raj Department

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 04842323448/458, Web: www.ldcl.nic.in
E-mail: amindivi@asianetindia.com
F.No: LDCL/Manning Dt : 16.10.2024
TENDER
E-tender is invited for engagement of Manning agent for 6 Nos of High Speed Crafts vide LDCL/S/Manning/HSC/2024
For details and E-tendering please visit website **https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTL** and **https://tendersutl.gov.in** Tender due on 06.11.2024 at 11.00 AM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 080-40482000 / 9605557738/9686115318 **(https://tenderwizard.com/UTL)** and 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787 **(https://tendersutl.gov.in).**
Sd/- MD (LDCL)

E-mail :- acez1jpr.pwd@rajasthan.gov.in
OFFICE OF THE ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PWD ZONE-I JAIPUR
PWD Campus, Jacob Road, Infront of Jaipur Club, Jaipur
(O) 0141-2223525
No.: ACE-I/Zone-I/NIT No. 04/2024-25/D-1466 Date : 16/10/2024
NOTICE INVITING BID
CM Budget Announcement 2024-25 road works of Sikar and Neemkathana District are invited from interested bidders from dated 18.10.2024 at 09:30 AM upto dated 11.11.2024 at 06:00 PM, other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state; and pwd.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website. The approximate value of the procurement is Rs. 10070.13 lacs
UBN NO.

क्र.सं.	जिला	कार्य का नाम	UBN No.
1.	नीमकाथाना	पपूरना, रामकुमारपुरा, डाबला, पाटन सड़क चौड़ाईकरण (13 किमी.) (खेतड़ी)–नीमकाथाना	PWD2425WLOB08352
2.	नीमकाथाना	मावण्डा से मेहाड़ा सड़क राज्य राजमार्ग–13ए किमी. 14/0 से 25/0 (11 किमी.) खेतड़ी नीमकाथाना कार्य।	PWD2425WLOB08353
3	नीमकाथाना	एनएच–52 से सिमारला जागीर और खेजड़ोली जिला सीमा तक, श्यामसिंह वाली से कुम्भा वाली, एसएच 113 से भारणी एव एसएच–37 से भारणी सड़क हेतु चौड़ाईकरण एव सुदृढ़ीकरण कार्य (श्रीमाधोपुर) नीमकाथाना	PWD2425WLOB08354
4	सीकर	जयपुर बीकानेर बाईपास एनएच–52 से लोसल नगरपालिका सीमा तक वाया घोद सरवड़ी एसएच–37बी सरवड़ी (एसएच–87)	PWD2425WLOB08337
5	सीकर	सीलपुर (एसएच–13) से ज्ञानपुरा (एमडीआर–276) वाया लोहावाड़ा–भड़वाड़ी नाला चौपड़ा की ढाणी मीरपुरा रलावता चौधरियों की ढाणी खेड़ी	PWD2425WLOB08341
6	सीकर	भोजपुर (एसएच–37) से चौमू पुरोहितान (एसएच–113) वाया नीमेरा जीता की ढाणी, पुजारी का बास, टीला की ढाणी	PWD2425WLOB08343
7	सीकर	सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं चौड़ाईकरण कार्य फतेहपुर से गोंड़ियाबड़ा से ठेड़ी लावड़ा ताखलसर–रामगढ़	PWD2425WLOB08345
8	नीमकाथाना	श्रीमाधोपुर–नीमकाथाना की विभिन्न नॉन पेचेबल सड़कों का नवीनीकरण 1. सुदृढ़ीकरण एवं चौड़ाईकरण कार्य कांवट (एसएच–13) लोहारपाड़ा कोटड़ी डांसपुर श्रीमाधोपुर जाजोद पलसाना (एनएच–11) किमी 12/500 से 20/0 2. लिसाड़िया से गोठा सड़क किमी 0/0 से 4/500 3. नाथूसर मोड़–गढ़टकनोत सड़क से डोरावाली किमी 0/0 से 1/0	PWD2425WLOB08356

Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/10175/2024 P.W.D. Zone-I Jaipur

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Div-Lakes, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.
No:EE/DAS/TEND/03/2024-25 Date: 21.10.2024
INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Two Cover System)
(Through **GOK** KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** only)
The Executive Engineer, DAS Div-Lakes, Room No.308, 3rd Floor, Annexure-03 N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002 BBMP, Bengaluru invites tenders from eligible Tenderers on Turnkey, Lump Sum, Fixed Price, No Variation and No Escalation basis for the construction work detailed in the table below.

Sl No.	Name of the works
1.	Balance works at Karihobanahalli Lake and Bagalagunte Lake. **Cost of Work Proposed : ₹.249.96 Lakhs (Excluding GST) EMD: ₹.3.75 Lakhs**
2.	Providing Chain Link Fencing to Karihobanahalli (Narasappanahalli) Lake. **Cost of Work Proposed : ₹.48.00 Lakhs (Excluding GST) EMD: ₹.0.96 Lakhs**

Calendar of Events : (1) Available of Tender Documents in kpp portal on **23.10.2024** onwards. (2) Last date of Receipt of Queries is **05.11.2024** upto **1:00** pm. (3) Date of Pre-Bid meeting on **05.11.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (4) Last date of Submission of Tenders on **06.11.2024** upto **4:00** pm. (5) Date of Opening of Technical Bid on **07.11.2024** upto **4:15** pm. (6) Date of Opening of Financial Bid will be intimated to Qualified Tenders.
Sd/- Executive Engineer, DAS Division-Lakes

KYIV

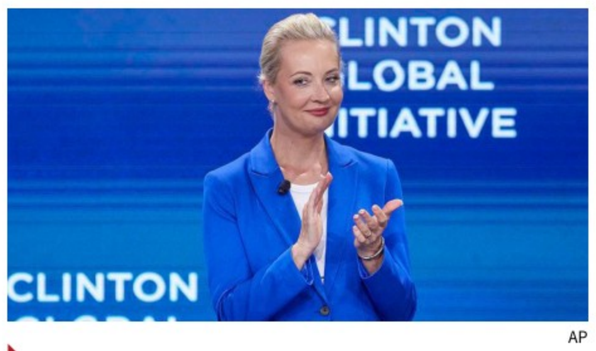
Austin announces $400 million in military aid during Ukraine visit

AP

U.S. Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin announced details of a $400 million aid package for Ukraine during a visit to Kyiv. Austin arrived as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy urged his Western allies to lift restrictions on the use of long-range weapons and as he pressed for an immediate invitation to join NATO. AFP

LONDON

Yulia Navalnaya says she hopes to return to Russia and run for office



AP

Yulia Navalnaya, the widow of late Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, will return to Russia and run for political office once Vladimir Putin is no longer leader, she told the BBC. Navalnaya, whose husband died in an Arctic prison in unclear circumstances in February, also vowed to keep up her husband's work. AFP

MALE

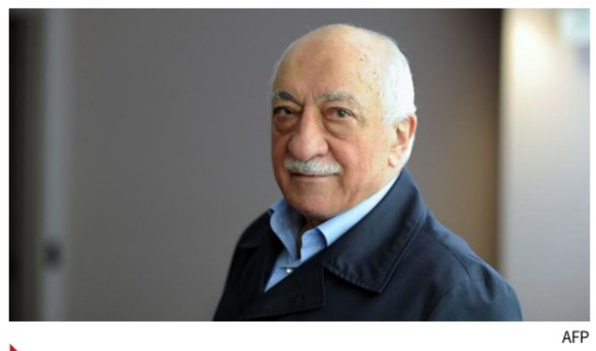
Muizzu introduces India's UPI payment service to boost economy

THE HINDU

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu has taken "necessary steps" to introduce India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in the archipelago nation. Mr. Muizzu on Sunday set up a consortium to introduce UPI in the country and appointed TradeNet Maldives Corporation Limited as its leading agency. PTI

ISTANBUL

Erdogan rival cleric Fethullah Gulen dies in exile in the U.S.



AFP

Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, who was accused by Turkiye of organising a failed 2016 coup, has died in exile in the United States aged 83, his movement said on Monday. Gulen, who had lived in the United States since 1999, was once a close ally of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan before the two became bitter enemies. AFP

Gaza hospitals under fire as Israel steps up attacks

Reuters
CAIRO

Israeli forces besieged hospitals and shelters for displaced people in the northern Gaza Strip on Monday as they stepped up their operations against Palestinian militants, residents and medics said.

The UN Palestinian refugee agency said Israeli authorities were preventing humanitarian missions from reaching areas in the north of the enclave with critical supplies, including medicine and food.

Medics at the Indonesian Hospital said Israeli troops stormed a school and detained the men before setting it ablaze. The fire reached hospital generators and caused a power outage.

Israel bombs institution accused of funding Hezbollah's operations

Al-Qard Al-Hassan is a Hezbollah-linked financial firm offering micro-credit in Lebanon where banking system collapsed five years ago; strikes mark an expansion of Israel's war as it seeks to degrade the militia's ability to fund operations

Agence France-Presse
BEIRUT

Israel conducted air strikes hitting a Lebanese association linked to Hezbollah, accusing it on Monday of financing the group's weapons, as it expanded the scope of its raids beyond military targets.

In southern Lebanon, Israeli strikes hit al-Qard Al-Hassan branches in the cities of Nabatiyeh and Tyre overnight, according to the official National News Agency. The Israeli military also said it struck about 300 Hezbollah targets in Lebanon over the past 24 hours. This included a Hezbollah bunker holding tens of millions of dollars worth of cash and gold.

Latest ploy: Documents of al-Qard al-Hassan lie scattered on Monday at the site of an overnight Israeli airstrike in Beirut. AP

On Monday, the Israeli military said it had conducted a series of strikes against "dozens of facilities and sites" used by Hezbollah in Beirut and southern Lebanon, including on branches of the financial institution.

The strikes mark an expansion of Israel's nearly month-long war with Hezbollah, as it seeks to degrade the group's ability to fund operations.

Ways of support

Israel accuses al-Qard Al-Hassan of funding "Hezbollah's terror activities", including the purchase of weapons and payments to militants.

Hezbollah built its loyal support base in Shia Muslim areas of Lebanon by providing protection, health, education and financial services in a state long wracked by sectarianism and corruption.

Al-Qard Al-Hassan is a Hezbollah-linked financial firm offering micro-credit in a country where the traditional banking system collapsed five years ago at the start of a crushing economic crisis.

It is sanctioned by the U.S., which accuses Hezbollah of using it as a cover to mask the group's financial activities and gain access to the international financial system.

Southern suburbs

On Sunday, 11 strikes hit Beirut's southern suburbs, many of them targeting al-Qard Al-Hassan.

Other strikes hit al-Qard al-Hassan branches in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley and in the country's south.

'I love salt!': Trump serves french fries at McDonald's

New role: Donald Trump, left, uses a frier as an employee looks on during a visit to a McDonald's store in Pennsylvania on Sunday. AP

Agence France-Presse
LANCASTER

Republican fast food enthusiast Donald Trump on Sunday donned a black-and-yellow apron over his white shirt and red tie to serve french fries at a McDonald's restaurant in Pennsylvania in the U.S.

The campaign stunt was intended as a jab at opponent Kamala Harris, who says she worked at the fast-food franchise in her youth.

Mr. Trump has repeatedly said that Ms. Harris never worked at a McDonald's while in college, an experience she has spoken about on the campaign.

As reporters and aides watched, an employee showed Mr. Trump how to dunk baskets of fries in oil, salt the fries and put them into boxes using a scoop. Mr. Trump, a well-known fan of fast food and a notorious germophobe, expressed amazement that he did not have to touch the fries with his hands.

"It's clean, it's really nice, you never touch 'em," he said.

"I'll never forget this experience," he said, as he finished up the campaign stop meant to appeal to working-class voters. "It requires expertise. I'm going through the french fry stuff."

"I don't mind this job," he continued, at one point asking if customers ever ask for more salt.

"I love salt!" he exclaimed, also throwing some over his shoulder onto the floor, explaining that he is "superstitious."

Told by reporters that Sunday was also his opponent Ms. Harris's 60th birthday, Mr. Trump wished her a "happy birthday."

"I think I'll get her some flowers," he quipped. "Maybe I'll get her some fries."

A large crowd lined the street outside the restaurant in Feasterville-Trevose, which is part of Bucks County, a key swing voter area north of Philadelphia.

U.S., Canada ships sail through Taiwan Strait after China's war drills

Associated Press
TAIPEI

U.S. and Canadian warships sailed through the Taiwan Strait on Sunday, almost a week after China held massive war games around Taiwan, which Beijing claims as its own territory.

The destroyer *USS Higgins* and the Canadian frigate *HMCS Vancouver* made a "routine" transit of the Taiwan Strait meant to uphold the principle of freedom of navigation for all countries.

The U.S. Navy, occasionally joined by ships from allied countries, regularly transits the sensitive waterway separating China from Taiwan. Germany sent two warships through the Strait last month to increase its defence engagement in the Asia-Pacific region.

China condemned the joint U.S.-Canada maneuver.

In mega tourism event, Saudi Arabia celebrates Indian diversity, pluralism

Kallol Bhattacherjee
RIYADH

The celebration was marked by musical evenings and outdoor culinary events

Saudi Arabia conducted a fortnight-long celebration of Indian culture as part of the annual Riyadh Season festivity here. The Indian segment of the Riyadh Season, a mega tourism event, was conceived as a branch of the Global Harmony Initiative of the Saudi government.

The celebration of India's diversity and pluralism was marked by musical evenings, outdoor culinary events, and visits by Indian performers and sportspersons. The rare celebration was led from the Indian side by Suhel Ajaz Khan, the Indian ambassador to Saudi Arabia who described the event as an "unforgettable experience". The festival organised at the Suwaidi Park was attended by large number of visitors. Saudi Arabia at present hosts around 2.4 million Indian workers. The Indian community in Saudi Arabia has grown over the years and is now second after Bangladesh which has the largest number of foreign workers in Saudi Arabia with nearly 2.7 million.

The Indian cultural festival came to an end on Sunday when cricketer Sreesanth was the star invitee of the Saudi government. The underlying theme of this year's Riyadh Season was the pace of social and cultural changes that are sweeping Saudi Arabia's tradition-bound society.

The change in the Saudi society was reflected during the event with the widespread participation of Saudi women in various parts of the festivity.

(*The correspondent is in Saudi Arabia on the invite of the Saudi Arabian government for the Riyadh Season 2024 festival*)

'Indian Americans can be the margin of victory in key States in U.S.'

'Kamala Harris has a very deep connection to India, because her mother was from India; she still has family who live in India, she is tied to the culture, she understands it, she is bringing a lived experience that you cannot replicate just through understanding the country separately. From that perspective, she is going to be very qualified to build those relationships'

INTERVIEW

Pramila Jayapal

Sriram Lakshman

The Hindu had a pull-aside interview with Chennai-born Member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Pramila Jayapal, at a diaspora canvassing event for Kamala Harris in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania ahead of the U.S. Presidential elections. Questions have been edited for readability.

As the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, what do you think is necessary for Kamala Harris to successfully bring together some Republicans who are dissatisfied with Trump, moderates and progressives, if she is elected President?

I think she is already doing it. She has run an almost flawless campaign. She has been a remarkable voice for everyone in America to have opportunities. The thing about her that is so amazing is different people can see themselves in her in different ways. If you are middle class, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris. If you worked at a McDonald's, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris.

If you're an Indian American, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris. If you're a woman, you can see yourself in Kamala Harris. So I feel this is a really important moment. Obviously, it's close because of the Electoral College. The popular vote, we always win as Democrats, but unfortunately, we have a system with the Electoral College where it comes down to a few key States, and Indian Americans can be the margin of victory in so many of these States.

What is your message to Arab Americans, many of whom are concerned about the position the Biden-Harris administration has taken on the Israel-Gaza conflict? Some may sit at home (i.e., not vote), some may vote for the Republican candidate Donald Trump.

I share the concerns of Arab Americans. I have been very vocal on the need for a cease fire. I have been very vocal on the need for us to use our leverage, including by saying that we will stop offensive military weapons to Israel if it does not stop using those weapons on Gaza, and now on Lebanon. So I share their concerns. But what I have said to them is that don't forget that Donald Trump is the person who actually empowered (Benjamin) Netanyahu to expand settlements in the West Bank. Donald Trump's Ambassador to Israel (David Friedma), was actually the person who had monetary interest in expanding settlements. Under Donald Trump, the (U.S.) Embassy was moved to Jerusalem. Donald Trump instituted the 'Muslim Ban'. So, I think what we have to do is think about how changing policy is going to be a longer fight. Kamala Harris will provide us with more fertile ground to be able to do that work.

Because Donald Trump is the one who established a unit in 2021 to denaturalise citizens. Indian Americans, Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, all need to think about how we win this election for Kamala Harris, and then we can continue to work on the policies that we need to work on.

Do you think once the elections are over, and if she wins, she will be more hawkish with regard to Israel?

I don't know. I have spoken to her directly about this. I have said how important it is for us to enforce our domestic laws. You saw the letter that just came from Secretary Blinken and Secretary Austin on Sunday saying exactly that, that if Israel does not comply with a series of things – it was the most detailed letter I have seen – they would be looking at enforcing domestic laws and the Leahy Laws that say that we can't provide funding unless somebody is complying with international humanitarian laws.

Ms. Harris is more progressive than U.S. President Joe Biden. Mr. Biden also says his personal connections fuel and contribute to his relationships with foreign leaders. How do you think these two factors will impact the U.S. approach to India, say, for the next few years, when Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in post?

Kamala Harris has a very deep connection to India, because her mother was from India. She still has family who live in India. She is tied to the culture. She understands it. She is bringing a lived experience that you cannot replicate just through understanding the country separately. From that perspective, she is going to be very qualified to build those relationships. But also she has been the Vice President for four years. She has travelled around the world. She has met with world leaders, and I think she has been very involved in foreign affairs while working with President Biden. She will bring her own personality, her own lived experiences, her own philosophies, but I think she is extraordinarily capable to be the next President of the United States, and I think, to restore the respect for the United States on the global stage.

But don't forget that it's the United States that is the real power here, the person who sits in the Oval Office wields the power of the United States, and if we are lucky enough to elect Kamala Harris as the next President, I believe she will do that with tremendous dignity, grace and skill.

THE BEST

Wolvaardt named skipper of ICC Team of the Tournament

AFP

Laura Wolvaardt was named skipper of the Team of the Tournament in the T20 World Cup. **The team:** Laura Wolvaardt (Capt.), Tazmin Brits, Danni Wyatt-Hodge, Amelia Kerr, Harmanpreet Kaur, Deandra Dottin, Nigar Sultana (wk), Afy Fletcher, Rosemary Mair, Megan Schutt and Nonkululeko Mlaba (SA). 12th player: Eden Carson (NZ).

ACTION-PACKED

Bangladesh hits back after being shot out for 106

AFP

South Africa made 140 for six on Monday in the opening day of the first Test after Bangladesh collapsed to 106 all out.
The scores: Bangladesh 106 in 40.1 overs (Mahmudul 30, Rabada 3/26, Mulder 3/22) vs South Africa 140/6 in 41 overs (de Zorzi 30, Taijul 5/49). **Toss:** Bangladesh.

ACING THE CHASE

Abhishek powers India-A to thumping win over UAE

FILE PHOTO

India cruised to a seven-wicket win over UAE in the ACC Emerging Teams Asia Cup in Muscat on Monday. Abhishek Sharma's 24-ball 58 (6x4, 4x6) took the Indians home in style. **The scores:** UAE 107 in 16.5 overs (Rahul Bhatia 50, Rasikh Salam 3/15, Ramandeep 2/7) lost to India-A 111/3 in 10.5 overs (Abhishek Sharma 58).

STRONG START

UP Yoddhas tames Dabang Delhi in a close contest

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

UP Yoddhas defeated Dabang Delhi KC 28-23 in a Pro Kabaddi League match in Hyderabad on Monday. The first half saw a close battle before the Yoddhas began to assert itself. Sahul Kumar stepped up for the UP franchise, inflicting an all-out on the opponents while Bhavani Rajput top-scored with seven points.

Carlsen to play in Tata Steel chess

Mayank Chaudhary
CHENNAI

Magnus Carlsen, World No. 1 and five-time World champion, is set to headline the Tata Steel Chess India Rapid & Blitz tournament (TSCI) at the Dhono Dhanyo Auditorium in Kolkata from Nov. 13 to 17.

This marks Carlsen's second appearance at the event after his victorious run in 2019.

The sixth edition will also feature three of India's top five players – Arjun Erigaisi, R. Praggnanandhaa, and Vidit Gujrathi.

However, current World No. 4, D. Gukesh, will miss the event due to his World Championship title clash against China's Ding Liren in Singapore, set for November-December.

The line-up: Open: Magnus Carlsen, Nodirbek Abdusattorov, Wesley So, Vincent Keymer, Daniil Dubov, Arjun Erigaisi, R. Praggnanandhaa, Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, and S.L. Narayanan.

Women: Aleksandra Goryachkina, Kateryna Lagno, Alexandra Kosteniuk, Nana Dzagnidze, Valentina Gunina, Koneru Humpy, R. Vaishali, D. Harika, Divya Deshmukh, and Vantika Agrawal.

WC might be the first sign of the changing landscape

The T20 extravaganza saw many firsts in the women's game: the boundaries pushed back and no Australia, England in the knockouts; NZ's memorable triumph saw the scales even out

Lavanya L
DUBAI

Scintillating show: New Zealand, which ambushed India in its opening game, went from strength to strength as the tournament progressed. GETTY IMAGES

A new champion. A redemption story for the ages. Ageing warhorses finally getting their day in the sun. The end of a 24-year-long wait. New Zealand's maiden T20 World Cup triumph capped off a rather special edition of the tournament that's finally seeing the scales even out in the women's game.

The ninth edition of the tournament, hosted in the UAE saw the first-ever Women's World Cup final without Australia or England.

A transitioning Australian team, without injured leader Alyssa Healy, was beaten quite comprehensively in the first semifinal by South Africa. West Indies - with its batting ballistics helped generously by England's slipperiness in the field – showed Heather Knight and Co. the door. India, the third prong in cricket's power circle at the moment, also drifted out of contention in the group stage.

After much talk about the low and slow wickets were taking the zing out of how World Cup cricket should be and a larger impatience in how the players were taking time to adjust to the challenging heat and humidity of the Middle East, the final week delivered.

While Group-A (Australia, New Zealand, India, Sri Lanka and Pakistan) was dubbed the group of the death, the merciless slashing happened in Group-B (England, South Africa, Scotland, Bangladesh, West Indies) with England. There's a cruel irony in India having had a chance to qualify despite losing two games, but England was straight out for having one bad game (a colossally bad one at that).

With over 80 dropped catches during the course of the tournament, fielding ended up being the difference between teams especially in crunch situations. It cost England a knockout spot. It cost India against New Zealand. The 'Ring of Fire' in Dubai was particularly notorious with players across the board admitting that the ball was lost on them for a few minutes against the blinding light.

Boundaries in Sharjah and Dubai were longer than ones drawn in for women's games in say, Mumbai or even Chennai. The 60-73m peripheries in some areas made six-hitting difficult. Slow outfields made scoring along the ground challenging. While boundaries were slow to become frequent, many teams adapted their shots to clear the ropes and maximise on scoring opportunities.

A new champion is a great sign for a World Cup that's looking to expand. The reducing gap between the top three means more competitive games and events. Scotland broke through to the World Cup scene this time, but for these watershed moments to make sense, it needs to be backed up with bilateral support and more game time against higher-quality opponents.

Ruturaj to helm India-A

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Ruturaj Gaikwad will lead India-A in its tour of Australia ahead of the senior team's five-Test sojourn Down Under.

The contests assume significance as India will have to zero in on a reserve opener, with Abhimanyu Easwaran and Sai Sudharsan the prime candidates. The think-tank will also be on the look out for back-up options in the pace-bowling department.

The squad: Ruturaj Gaikwad (Capt.), Abhimanyu Easwaran, Sai Sudharsan, Nitish Kumar Reddy, Devdutt Padikkal, Ricky Bhui, B. Indrajith, Ishan Kishan, Abishek Porel, Mukesh Kumar, Khaleel Ahmed, Yash Dayal, Navdeep Saini, Manav Suthar, Tanush Kotian.

The schedule: Oct. 31 to Nov. 3: India-A vs. Australia-A, Mackay; **Nov. 7 to 10:** India-A vs. Australia-A, Melbourne; **Nov. 15 to 17:** Intra-squad game vs. Senior India, Perth.

Shami 'pain-free'

India pacer Mohammed Shami on Monday declared himself "pain-free" but insisted on proving his fitness in domestic cricket by playing at least "one or two" games to make a strong case for selection for the marquee tour of Australia starting next month.

"I am very happy with how I bowled. The result was good. I am 100 % pain-free. The only thing on my mind is to ensure that I am fit and how strong I can be for the Australia series."

King of Austin: Leclerc led a Ferrari 1-2. REUTERS

Leclerc wins US GP; Verstappen third after Norris' late penalty

Reuters
AUSTIN (USA)

Max Verstappen dealt Lando Norris a significant setback in the Formula One title battle after a thrilling duel between the two.

Red Bull's triple world champion finished third to stretch his lead over his McLaren rival, who ended up fourth after starting on pole, to 57 points with five rounds remaining.

Norris had passed Verstappen four laps from the end, after hunting his Dutch rival down on fresher tyres, but was handed a five-second penalty for going off the track and gaining an advantage. The overtake was the major talking point of the race at Austin's Circuit of the Americas.

Leclerc's win, his third of the season after Monaco and Monza, ended Verstappen's run of three successive U.S. Grand Prix wins. Although Verstappen won the Saturday sprint from pole, his losing Sunday streak extended to nine Grands Prix going back to Spain in June.

The results: 1. Charles Leclerc (Ferrari) 1h:35m:09.639s; 2. Carlos Sainz (Ferrari) +8.562s; 3. Max Verstappen (Red Bull) 19.412; 4. Lando Norris (McLaren-Mercedes) 20.354; 5. Oscar Piastri (McLaren) 21.921; 6. George Russell (Mercedes) 56.295; 7. Sergio Perez (Red Bull) 59.072; 8. Nico Hulkenberg (Haas) 1:02.957; 9. Liam Lawson (RB) 1:10.563; 10. Franco Colapinto (Williams) 1:11.979; 11. Kevin Magnussen (Haas) 1:19.782; 12. Pierre Gasly (Alpine) 1:30.558; +1 lap: 13. Fernando Alonso (Aston Martin); 14. Yuki Tsunoda (RB); 15. Lance Stroll (Aston Martin); 16. Alexander Albon (Williams); 17. Valtteri Bottas (Stake F1); 18. Esteban Ocon (Alpine); 19. Zhou Guanyu (Stake F1); DNF: Lewis Hamilton (Mercedes).

Standings: Drivers: 1. Verstappen 354; 2. Norris 297; 3. Leclerc 275; 4. Piastri (AUS) 247; 5. Sainz 215,
Constructors: 1. McLaren 544; 2. Red Bull 504; 3. Ferrari 496; 4. Mercedes 344; 5. Aston Martin 86.

Stretching it out: Samson chose to work on his fitness as rain played havoc in the Karnataka-Kerala Ranji Trophy encounter. N. SUDARSHAN

Rain reigns again on final day of Karnataka-Kerala match

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka and Kerala got a point each as their Ranji Trophy Elite Group-C encounter at the Alur Grounds ended in a frustrating draw after the final day's play on Monday was also abandoned because of overnight rain.

Of the 12 sessions in the match, there was action only in two – the final session on the opening day and the first session on the second. All of 50 overs' play was possible, with Kerala reaching 161 for three.

The solitary point will hurt Karnataka more than Kerala, for the eight-time champion had to be content with one point in its rain-curtailed opening tie against Madhya Pradesh as well.

Kerala, on the other hand, secured a eight-wicket victory over Punjab in the first game, fetching the side six points.

Karnataka will travel to Patna next to take on Bihar from October 26 while Kerala will clash with Bengal in Kolkata.

Aneesh and Abhinav named in Karnataka Ranji squad

N. Sudarshan
BENGALURU

With Devdutt Padikkal named in the India-A travelling party to Australia, Karnataka has called up K.V. Aneesh and Abhinav Manohar as reinforcements for its Ranji Trophy away trip to Bihar (October 26 to 29).

The contest is a must-win for the eight-time champion after having collected just two points from its opening two matches.

Aneesh, 23, debuted last season and played four First Class games, including the Ranji quarterfinal against Vidarbha where he made 34 and 40 batting at No.3.

Abhinav Manohar, 30, is yet to make his red-ball debut. The hard-hitting batter has played 36 T20s and seven List-A matches for Karnataka and has turned out for Gujarat Titans in the IPL.

Most recently, he finished with 550 runs at a strike-rate of 194.35 in the Maharaja Trophy KSCA T20. Pacer Vidwath Kaverappa is not in the squad as he continues his recovery from the shin injury sustained during the Duleep Trophy.

Aneesh.
FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

The squad: Mayank Agarwal (Capt.), Nikin Jose, Manish Pandey, R. Smaran, K.V. Aneesh, Abhinav Manohar, Shreyas Gopal, Sujay Sateri, Hardik Raj, V. Vyshak, V. Koushik, Luvnith Sisodia, Mohsin Khan, Vidyadhar Patil, Kishan S. Bedare, Abhilash Shetty.

RANJI SCORES - ROUND 2 (FOURTH AND FINAL DAY)

Elite: Group A: Delhi: Baroda 477/6 decl. & 134/1 decl. bt Services 271 & 275 in 82.2 overs (Rajat Paliwal 47, Arjun Sharma 79 n.o., Mahesh Pithiya 6/102). **Points: Baroda 6(12), Services 0(7).**
Cuttack: Jammu & Kashmir 270 & 270/7 decl. in 73.2 overs (Shubham Khajuria 43, Shubham Pundir 40, Abdul Samad 108 n.o.) drew with Odisha 272 & 112/8 in 80.4 overs (Sandeep Pattnaik 55 n.o.). **Odisha 3(4), J & K 1(4).**
Mumbai: Maharashtra 126 & 388 lost to Mumbai 441 & 75/1 in 13.3 overs. **Mumbai 6(6), Maharashtra 0(1).**
Shillong: Tripura 377/8 decl. bt Meghalaya 222 & 138 in 37.5 overs (Jaskirat Singh Sachdeva 51, Manisankar Murasingh 5/44). **Tripura 7(8), Meghalaya 0(0).**
Group B: Ahmedabad: Gujarat 367 & 144/9 in 50.3 overs (Lalith Mohan 7/76) bt Andhra 213 & 297 in 90.5 overs (Abhishek Reddy 81, Maheep Kumar 55, K.S. Bharat 47, Arzan Nagwaswalla 4/40). **Gujarat 6(12), Andhra 0(0).**
Dehradun: Uttarakhand 325 & 235 in 74.2 overs (R. Samarth 57, Kunal Chandela 66) bt Hyderabad 292 & 190 in 69.1 overs (Rohit Rayudu 47 n.o., Swapnil Singh 6/59). **Uttarakhand 6(6), Hyderabad 0(0).**
Puducherry: Vidarbha 283 & 128 in 58.2 overs (Sagar Udeshi 5/50, Ankit Sharma 4/48) bt Pondicherry 209 & 82 in 24 overs (Harsh Dubey 4/20). **Vidarbha 6(12), Pondicherry 0(1).**
Group C: Bengaluru: Kerala 161/3 in 50 overs (Rohan Kunnummal 63) drew with Karnataka. No play. **Kerala 1(7), Karnataka 1(2).**
Kalyani: Bengal vs Bihar match abandoned without a ball bowled. **Bengal 1(4), Bihar 1(1).**
Lucknow: Haryana 453 & 72/3 in 25 overs drew with Uttar Pradesh 364 in 93.2 overs (Aryan Juyal 119, Rinku Singh 89, Yash Dayal 41 n.o., Ankit Rajpoot 40, Jayant Yadav 4/102). **Haryana 3(10), UP 1(2).**
Mullanpur: Punjab 277 & 329/6 decl. in 103 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh Paul 116, Abhay Choudhary 46, Anmolpreet Singh 72) drew with Madhya Pradesh 207 & 146/8 in 73 overs (Himanshu Mantri 41 n.o.). **Punjab 3(3), MP 1(2).**
Group D: Guwahati: Assam 266 & 185 in 63 overs (Jagjit Singh 7/57) lost to Chandigarh 374 & 83/1 in 17.2 overs (Manan Vohra 51 n.o.). **Chandigarh 6(6), Assam 0(1).**
Rajkot: Chhattisgarh 578/7 decl. drew with Saurashtra 478/8 in 137.3 overs (Chirag Jani 40, Cheteshwar Pujara 234, Sheldon Jackson 62, Arpit Vasavada 73). **Chhattisgarh 1(2), Saurashtra 1(1).**
Delhi: Tamil Nadu 674/6 decl. drew with Delhi 266 in 100 overs (Yash Dhull 105 n.o., Pranav Rajvanshi 40) & 193/8 in 83 overs (Sanat Sangwan 83). **TN 3(10), Delhi 1(4).**
Ahmedabad: Jharkhand 417 & 38/2 in 19 overs drew with Railways 414 in 129.3 overs (Vivek Singh 75, Mohammad Saif 113, Upendra Yadav 82, Ashutosh Sharma 55, Anukul Roy 4/115). **Jharkhand 3(6), Railways 1(7).**
Plate: Ahmedabad: Mizoram 247 & 404/2 decl. bt Arunachal Pradesh 252 & 132 in 43.5 overs (K.C. Cariappa 4/28, Bobby Zothansanga 4/36). **Mizoram 6(6), Arunachal Pradesh 0(0).**
Sovima: Nagaland 237 & 306/5 decl. bt Manipur 139 & 257 in 92.1 overs (Al Bashid Muhammed 61, Kangabam Priyojit 89, Rongsen Jonathan 5/81). **Nagaland 6(13), Manipur 0(0).**

Daddy hundreds: Pujara's 18th First Class double century took him to fourth in the all-time list behind Don Bradman (37), Wally Hammond (36) and Elias 'Patsy' Hendren (22). FILE PHOTO

Deepika bags a silver at the WC Final

Dhiraj loses in the opening round in the men's event

ARCHERY

Press Trust of India
TLAXCALA (MEXICO)

India's premier recurve archer Deepika Kumari won her fifth recurve silver medal at the World Cup Final after losing the summit clash 0-6 to China's Li Jiaman, here.

In the men's section, Dhiraj Bommadevara, despite a lead, could not hold off the challenge from South Korea's Paris Olympics bronze medallist, Lee Woo Seok in the opening round and lost 6-4.

The five-member Indian contingent, comprising three compound and two recurve archers, concluded its season-ending WC Final campaign with one medal.

Top trio: Champion Li flanked by Deepika, left, and bronze medallist Alejandra. WORLD ARCHERY

Nightmare claims feature event

HYDERABAD: Trainer G. Sandeep's 7-y-o mare Nightmare, ridden by Akshay Kumar, won in a nail-biting finish from Brooklyn Beauty, the Raja Mahboob Karan Memorial Cup, the feature event of Monday's (Oct. 21) races. The winner is owned by Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula & Mr. G.V. Reddy.

1. SIRCILLA PLATE (2,000M): CARAXES (Afroz Khan) 1, Das (Naresh) 2, Federer (P. Ajeeth K) 3 and China Town (Vivek) 4. 2-3/4, 3/4 and 1. 2m, 10.32s. ₹40 (w), 11, 29 and 12 (p). SHP: 65, THP: 41, SHW: 21 and 37, FP: 500, Q: 141, Tanala: 3,131. Favourite: China Town. Owner: Mr. S.A. Shehzad Abbas. Trainer: Raza Shehzad.

2. PLAY.HYDRACES.COM CUP (DIV. II) (1,200M): EXCLUSIVE BLACK (Md. Ismail) 1, Mr. Perfect (Mohit) 2, Doe A Deer (Shivansh) 3 and Talking Stick (Ajay K) 4. 4-1/2, 4-1/4 and 1-1/4. 1m, 14.30s. ₹13 (w), 11, 15 and 34 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 161, SHW: 11 and 44, FP: 112, Q: 89, Tanala: 2,012. Favourite: Exclusive Black. Owner: Mr. G. Narasa Reddy. Trainer: Robin Reddy Kondakalla.

3. NIJINSKY PLATE (1,400M): GIFTED GIRL (B.R. Kumar) 1, Anemoi (Santosh Raj) 2, Pinatubo (Abhay Singh) 3 and Splendour On Grass (Naresh) 4. Not run: Nonpariel, Blazing Saddle and D Extreme. 8-1/4, 3/4 and 3-1/2. 1m, 29.30s. ₹22 (w), 10, 10 and 25 (p). SHP: 28, THP: 61, SHW: 10 and 10, FP: 42, Q: 23, Tanala: 150. Favourite: Anemoi. Owner: Mr. Rajendran rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: A. Imran Khan.

4. PLAY.HYDRACES.COM CUP (DIV. I) (1,200M): ARION ONE (Akshay Kumar) 1, High Heels (B.R. Kumar) 2, Dali's Destiny (Deepak Singh) 3 and Darling's Boy (Shivansh) 4. 1-1/4, 2 and 2. 1m, 14.04s. ₹12 (w), 12, 10 and 19 (p). SHP: 36, THP: 40, SHW: 13 and 28, FP: 33, Q: 46, Tanala: 247. Favourite: Arion One. Owners: M/s. Ashok Kumar Gupta, Rafaat Hussain, Rama Seshu Eyunni, Balam Mohla & Vishal Gupta. Trainer: R.H. Sequeira.

5. LAND OF GLORY PLATE (1,200M): BORN BRAVE (Kuldeep Singh Sr.) 1, Assured Success (Ajay K) 2, Rival (Naresh) 3 and Pontefract (Shivansh) 4. Not run: Coming Home. 1-1/4, 1/2 and Neck. 1m, 13.93s. ₹16 (w), 13, 12 and 24 (p). SHP: 46, THP: 121, SHW: 10 and 29, FP: 68, Q: 44, Tanala: 638. Favourite: Born Brave. Owners: Mr. Donald Anthony Netto & Mr. Rajendra rep. Rapar's Galloping Stars LLP. Trainer: D. Netto.

6. RAJA MAHBOOB KARAN MEMORIAL CUP (1,600M): NIGHTMARE (Akshay Kumar) 1, Brooklyn Beauty (Ajay K) 2, City Of Blessing (Kuldeep Sr.) 3 and Carnival Lady (Shivansh) 4. Not run: Only My Way. Neck, 1-1/4 and 1/2. 1m, 41.20s. ₹40 (w), 10, 16 and 32 (p). SHP: 58, THP: 110, SHW: 40 and 19, FP: 180, Q: 127, Tanala: 1,656. Favourite: Brooklyn Beauty. Owners: Mr. Subodh Kumar Ananthula & Mr. G.V. Reddy. Trainer: G. Sandeep.

7. HALLMARK PLATE (1,200M): REINING QUEEN (P. Ajeeth Kumar) 1, Glimmer Of Hope (Shivansh) 2, Battle On (Ajay K) 3 and Taaliyah (Deepak Singh) 4. Not run: Silver Arrow. 1/2, Neck and 3. 1m, 16.44s. ₹94 (w), 23, 12 and 11 (p). SHP: 43, THP: 51, SHW: 19 and 42, FP: 802, Q: 186, Tanala: 1,536. Favourite: Glimmer Of Hope. Owners: M/s. Sunil Kumar Sethi, Syed Nawaz Hussain, Lakshmana Chowdary Yalamanchili & E. Anoop Kumar Reddy. Trainer: Ananta Vatsalya.

Jackpot: 70%: ₹12,920 (35 tkts.) & 30%: 268 (723 tkts.).

Mini Jackpot: (i) 2,373 (19 tkts.), (ii) 1,881 (46 tkts.).

Treble: (i) 308 (92 tkts.), (ii) 1,265 (35 tkts.).

Maiden professional title for Dhakshineswar

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Dhakshineswar Suresh beat Luca Pow of Britain 6-3, 6-7(4), 7-5 in the final of the $15,000 ITF men's tennis tournament in Winston-Salem, USA, on Sunday.

It was the maiden professional title for the 24-year-old Dhakshineswar, who did well to save three matchpoints after having trailed 3-5 in the decider.

Dhaksineswar had made the doubles semifinals of the ATP event at the same venue in August with Luca Pow.

CSK sweating over Dhoni's availability

IPL

Sports Bureau
CHENNAI

Chennai Super Kings are still awaiting confirmation from M.S. Dhoni regarding his availability for the 2025 edition of the IPL ahead of the retentions.

With the October 31 deadline fast approaching for submitting the final list of retained players, the management is likely to meet the former India skipper and discuss his future in the coming days.

"We haven't had a chance to speak with him yet. We obviously want him to play, but it will be his decision," said CSK CEO K.S. Viswanathan.

CSK can retain Dhoni at ₹4 crore as an uncapped player. According to an old IPL rule that has been revived ahead of next month's auction, players who haven't played international cricket for more than five years can be considered uncapped.

It is understood that apart from Dhoni, the five-time champion's prime retention targets for retention will be Ruturaj, Ravindra Jadeja and Sri Lankan pacer Matheesha Pathirana.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE SCHEDULE

Tuesday: AC Milan vs Club Brugge, AS Monaco vs Red Star Belgrade *(10.15 p.m. IST)*; Arsenal vs Shakhtar Donetsk, Aston Villa vs Bologna, Girona vs Slovan Bratislava, Juventus vs VfB Stuttgart, Paris Saint-Germain vs PSV Eindhoven, Real Madrid vs Borussia Dortmund, SK Sturm Graz vs Sporting CP *(Wednesday, 00.30 a.m.)*.

Wednesday: Atalanta vs Celtic, Brest vs Bayer Leverkusen *(10.15 p.m.)*; Atletico Madrid vs Lille, Barcelona vs Bayern Munich, Benfica vs Feyenoord Rotterdam, Manchester City vs Sparta Prague, RB Leipzig vs Liverpool, RB Salzburg vs Dinamo Zagreb, Young Boys vs Internazionale *(Thursday, 00.30 a.m.)*.

Barcelona routs Sevilla, stays on top

Reuters
BARCELONA

Robert Lewandowski and substitute Pablo Torre each scored twice to help leaders Barcelona thrash visitors Sevilla 5-1 in LaLiga on Sunday.

Barcelona is on top of the standings on 27 points, three ahead Real Madrid in second and seven clear of Atletico Madrid in third. Sevilla is 13th on 12 points.

In Serie A, Inter Milan secured a 1-0 victory at AS Roma.

The results: LaLiga: Barcelona 5 (Lewandowski 24-pen, 39, Pedri 28, Torre 82, 88) Sevilla 1 (Idumbo 87).
Serie A: Roma 0 lost to Inter Milan 1 (Martinez 60).

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Maitrey nets Karnataka's winner

Karnataka edged out Bihar 1-0 in the senior women's National football championship in Nadia, West Bengal, on Monday.
The result: Karnataka 1 (Maitrey Palasumudram 45+4) bt Bihar 0.

Dheeraj at the helm

Dheeraj J. Gowda will lead Karnataka in the Cooch Behar (U-19) Trophy matches against Baroda (Nov. 6 to 9) and Delhi (Nov. 13 to 16) to be played in Vadodara and Bengaluru respectively.
The squad: Dheeraj J. Gowda (Capt.), Shivam Singh, Pranav Babu, Ravi Kairav Reddy, K.P. Karthikeya, Samit Dravid, Siddharth Akhil, Samarth Nagaraj, Vaibhav Sharma, R. Pratham, Raag Punja, Gaurov Shanbhag, Sean Pratyush Cyril, Sanmay Rudrawadi, Ronith Iyengar.

Former Karnataka footballer Mathews passes away

Former Karnataka football player T. Mathews passed away in Bengaluru on Monday. He was 71. He played for the State junior and senior teams from 1972 to 1977. In 1979, he moved to Kolkata (then Calcutta) and subsequently turned out for Bengal in the Santosh Trophy. At the local level, he had stints at HAL and ITI. The Karnataka State Football Association condoled his death.

Vidyaniketan School B-24 to take on Vydehi School Of Excellence for the honours

Vidyaniketan School, B-24 will meet Vydehi School Of Excellence in the final of the KM Ramprasad Shield U-16 School third division tournament.
The scores (semifinals):
Vidyaniketan, B-24 163 in 29 overs (Rahul 50, Abhay 43) bt NPS, Yeshwanthpur 126 in 25.5 overs (Sasmith S. Shetty 32, Aarav V. Jain 34, Avaneesh 3/22, Devansh 3/39).
Vydehi School Of Excellence 159/9 in 30 overs (Rhythm Duggal 50, Chirag 61) bt Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Vidya Mandir, B-87 91 in 24.1 overs (Pavan 29, Yashanth Reddy 5/9).

Manoj stars in Young Cricketers (2)'s win

Manoj Yadav's all-round effort (3/45 & 40) helped Young Cricketers (2) defeat Young Cricketers Association, Kolar by five wickets in the KSCA YS Ramaswamy Memorial Trophy.
The scores: Young Cricketers Association, Kolar 237 in 49.4 overs (Harish Karthik 54, Pavan Kumar 39, Muzakkir Sharief 34, Monish Karthik 43, Manoj Yadav 3/45) lost to Young Cricketers (2) 239/5 in 33.4 overs (Manoj Yadav 40, Nani 66, Atiqulla Khan 88).
Bangalore Sports 190 in 41.1 overs (Prasad 46, Anil 44, Raza 3/24, Hemam 3/10) bt BUCC (2) 123 in 34.4 overs (Sonam 38, Pradeep 4/36, Praful 3/32).

Youth 100 in 29.2 overs (Moksh Nahar 5/28) lost to Yuvaka Sangha 102/1 in 6.2 overs (Manjunath 73).

St. Joseph's College 140 in 31 overs (Aravind Surya 31, Clifford Noel 54) lost to Magadi CC 141/5 in 24.3 overs (Abhiram 34, Ajay 40, Clifford Noel 3/38).

Eleven Brother's, Magadi 254/7 in 50 overs (Chandra 100, Aditya 68, Chethan 3/50) bt Zodiac 210 in 42 overs (Mahesh Reddy 75, Sandeep 28, Karthik 29, Saif 4/51, Samarth Hegde 3/49).

Kickstart gets the better of Kodagu

Kickstart FC beat Kodagu FC 2-1 in the UrbanRise BDFA Super Division football league here on Monday.
The results: Kickstart FC 2 (Saikhom Borish Singh 48, Abhishek Shankar Powar 77) bt Kodagu FC 1 (Lalkrawsmawia 70); Bangalore Independents FC 1 (Saravana Kumar 65) bt FC Real Bengaluru 0.

Rapid chess tournaments

Champions Chess Academy will conduct rapid chess tournaments in two categories (u-10 and u-18) on October 27. Entries close on October 25. For details, call: Balakrishna Prabhu (9845466416).